

Janet Jagan's letter to her parents - 1954

October 14, 1954

Dear Folks,

Cheddi has shown me your letters. Know you must have worried a lot and I am sorry to have caused you all the worry. I didn't mention it, as I did not know at the time what exactly would happen.

At any rate, I'm in jail, and it's not bad. Everyone is very nice to me and I really experience no hardships. Having "hard labour" I am given needlework to do - something I haven't done since I was a child. And as you no doubt remember, I used to make nice little things, as I'm doing now. If I'm ambitious and if I have time, when I get out, I may make you something. At present I am busy making stuffed toys and dolls. I read a lot at night. Have gone through about six books by now.

Joe is well taken care of, so don't worry about him. I understand the gift box came about 2 weeks ago, so it was in time for his birthday. I understand he has started his pancake craze again. You really have to keep him supplied - as he seems to like that more than anything else that you send. I understand you sent me a house coat. I'm glad, as I wanted one and was going to get myself one for my birthday.

I hope Dad is Ok now from after the operation. He must get a good rest. If I'm out in time I am going to send a B.G fruitcake for Xmas - they are really terrific.

Being in prison is an education in itself. I Think I have learned more about human nature (and the underworld) in the past 5 weeks than I learned in my lifetime. The women prison population is amazingly low - we are only eighth. The figure bears no relation to the male prison population. Only one of the prisoners is a "lifer" for the murder of her sweetheart. And she is such a nice, mild and quiet woman. The old jealousy story. I hope she will be released in a few years as she is certainly no criminal, in the real sense of the word.

I still have one outstanding case which will be heard on the 23rd of October. Cheddi will no doubt keep you informed on that.

Nothing to worry about, so set your minds at ease.

Love,
Janet.

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Love,

Cheddi