



Ear Hustle Extra: Summer Listening
Air Date: July 22, 2020

Earlonne Woods: [00:00:00] Hey Ear Hustlers, it's Earlonne.

Nigel Poor: And Nigel.

Earlonne: This is Ear Hustle from PRX's Radiotopia, hittin' you with a surprise: a between season extra special bonus episode.

Nigel: And before we go any further, the following episode of Ear Hustle contains language and subject matter that may not be appropriate for all listeners. Discretion is advised. [transition soundbite - abstracted chattering and radio static]

Earlonne: As y'all know, we're between seasons right now.

Nigel: We will be back September 9th with Season 6.

Earlonne: So, we're dropping into your feed today in part to recommend some other things to listen to while Ear Hustle away.

Nigel: And we'll get to those in a minute. First though, we have to talk about COVID-19 and California prisons.

Earlonne: Since our last episode at the beginning of June, the virus, which had already broken out at other prisons in California, hit San Quentin hard. [transition sound]

Rahsaan “New York” Thomas: [over the phone] Hi, I'm Rahsaan "New York" Thomas. I am calling from the epicenter of COVID-19 in North block of San Quentin, man.

Earlonne: [over the phone] You didn't get to co-host shit this season.

New York: Nah, nah. [alert interrupts call - automated voice says, "This call and your telephone number will be monitored and recorded."] We were supposed to be, me and Nyge, recording an episode on a Friday and we didn't finish. I said, "well, we'll just do it Monday when I come back." I ain't seen her since.

Nigel: Earlonne, I hate hearing that.

Earlonne: Right

Nigel: I remember that. I was supposed to go back in. But I was actually really scared I was going to bring the virus in. And then a few days later, San Quentin barred visitors anyway. And it stayed COVID free. At least for a while.

Earlonne: And the cold thing is we were assuming if COVID got into San Quentin, it would be staff that brought it in.

Nigel: Because once volunteers like me stopped going in, staff were pretty much the only people going from the outside in.

Earlonne: But that's not what happened. In May, busloads of prisoners from California Institution for Men, where there were a bunch of COVID cases, were transferred to San Quentin. It was meant to reduce crowding at CIM and slow down the outbreak there.

Nigel: Before long, cases at San Quentin started to skyrocket. Rahsaan's cellmate tested positive.

New York: They said they moving him, but they moved so many people, man. They ran out of room in isolation. They ran out of room in Badger and all of the sections back there, so he got stuck in the cell with me. So, he's in the cell with me for like another five days before I find out – I get my results in the mail – and find I'm positive already. It's crazy.

Earlonne: When did you find out!?

New York: I had a flu before they tested it. Because I had a bad headache, man. And the sneezin'. But those ain't COVID symptoms. So, I didn't report 'em because I didn't want to report them and get sent to where everybody got COVID at and definitely get it, know what I'm sayin'? But I knew it was something funny with that headache because it was pounding for six days. And I've never had nothing to afflict me for no six days. And then when I couldn't smell, I knew it was bad. And so, when the results came back, I wasn't surprised. But right now. I'm good. Like the only thing

I feel right now is that my nose feels a little bit congested. But I'm over it, like, it ain't gonna kill me.

Nigel: New York is thankfully doing okay. But the situation at San Quentin is dire.

Earlonne: As we're recording this on July 15th, CDCR is reporting 1,300 active cases of coronavirus in San Quentin. There's nearly 700 other guys who did test positive, but have recovered. Together, that's more than half the population in San Quentin.

Nigel: And the CDCR has confirmed ten deaths at San Quentin caused by coronavirus.

Earlonne: The prison is on lockdown. Guys are in their cells 24 hours a day. Every three days, they get out to use the showers and the phone.

Nigel: And we feel really helpless out here. But we're trying to do something. Ear Hustle is partnering with the Prison University Project and helping to raise funds to send care packages to every person inside San Quentin and also to help feed the staff.

Earlonne: And Nyge, when I told New York about this on the phone, his request was, "add more food, add more food!"

New York: They need it, bro. Like people need it, man.

Earlonne: No, definitely...

New York: Food packages, make sure it's food.

Earlonne: No definitely. It's another one that's about to come...

New York: Food, pack it with all the food.

Earlonne: There's another one that's about to come through. So, you say mainly food?

New York: Man, food, man. Food, food, food.

Nigel: Because of the lockdown guys aren't working right now. So, they aren't getting that small bit of money that helps them buy food at canteen.

Earlonne: And instead of going to the chow hall, they're getting food delivered to their cells in boxes. So, instead of hot food it's crackers, bread, chips, baloney, and that type of shit all day. So other food is really important.

[on the phone with New York] Outside of that, man. What else? What are you seeing, man?

New York: I'm telling you, we don't get out the cell, bro. Like, for me, I'm going through [00:05:00] anxiety. Like, I can't do nothing. I can't pace, I can't work out. My

cellie's here all day, every day on the bottom bunk, in my face. He's cool. I love him. But he need to go. I need some space. We need some yard time or something, but I know they can't do that right now. Um, it's bad, man. It just feels like a horrible time to be in prison right now.

Nigel: Our friend, Steve Champion has been sick too.

Steve Champion: [over the phone] The first three days I had a headache. So, I'll find myself laying down, you know, on the floor, with a blanket on the floor and I find myself laying there. I'm sleeping and I'm sleeping all the way until breakfast the next day. After sleeping that long period of time, I'm still tired. And then I'm cold. I lost my sense of taste, but not my sense of smell. In terms of the food, the food became so absolutely horrible. I couldn't eat. I just couldn't eat. You know? And so, I'm just glad that I'm -- [call cuts off abruptly]

Earlonne: [over the phone] Damn, they cut him off. Ah, man. Alright, well that was, um, our good friend. Steve Champion has been on death row for like 37, 38 years. And he's still up there. And right now, with the COVID, he's just watching people pass on. Oof.

A lot of times, you know, I be sitting here like, ooh, I'm glad I ain't in prison no more. I'm glad everything worked out in 2018. And Governor Brown sees fit to release me. I mean, my brother's in there, you know, displaying the symptoms. So, I knew I would have been in there displaying them and probably fell out. So, I'm pretty glad that I'm not in that environment. And I'm in a totally different environment right now. [soft music comes in]

Caesar McDowell: I was on the first tier. That's all I saw. All I would hear was moaning, "I can't breathe!" They're calling for the nurses, "I can't breathe! Somebody call the doctor!" "I'm cold." That's what you hear a lot too was, "I'm freezing. I'm freezing." That's how it is. There's no nurses coming to your doors. The nurses is standing six feet back from your door. The CO's are standing back from your door. You're basically just left in there, man. If you're gonna die, you're gonna die. If you're gonna live, you're gonna live.

Earlonne: This is Caesar McDowell. He got out of San Quentin at the end of June.

Caesar: The only way to resolve what's going on, man is... it's too many people. We're too close to each other. I mean, you got two people stacked in every cell. I mean, literally. When you're breathing in the next cell, I'm listening to you breathe from my cell when I'm laying down. So, the only way to do that, man, is you have to get rid of some people. They're going to have to release some people or just sit and wait to see how many of us die. And then, you know, replace us with someone else.

Earlonne: A lot of people were saying that you just have to get people out of there. It's time to release more people.

Nigel: On July 10th, the CDCR announced it's releasing up to 8,000 people statewide by the end of August.

Earlonne: And 8,000 is a great number. But I think it needed to be more like 35,000 ... 40,000. So, you can end the double cell and make a single cell. As of now, folks are packed in like sardines and that makes the conditions perfect for an outbreak. [music fades out]

So far, there have been around 6,500 cases of coronavirus amongst prisoners in California. About 2,300 of those are active cases. [music comes in]

Nigel: And obviously all of this has also upended life for thousands of people who have loved ones inside.

Earlonne: It's been hella hard to stay in touch. Family visits were canceled back in March.

Nigel: Alesha Monteiro's husband is at CMF, a prison in Vacaville, California. Her last visit with him was nearly five months ago. [music fades out]

Alesha: It was the last day of February that I saw him. It was just a normal day – the same thing that we always do. You know, we go in. Um, we check in. And then we wait for him to come through. It usually takes 15, 20 minutes for him to get cleared and come through. And by the time he comes out, I usually have one of his favorite drinks from the vending machine. Me and the kids all have sodas and snacks and we're just waiting. And then, [voice breaking] he comes to the door to give his pass to the guards at the podium. And it's been the same thing. Every time he kind of looks at me, half [00:10:00] smiles, gives his badge to the staff while he's looking at me the whole time and walks over with a huge smile on his face. And it's just like the best – it's the best part of our week. And everyone talks about... everyone's sure that we're not gonna have visits or see our loved ones again until after the first of the year. So, I just keep playing that last visit over and over again. I had no idea that I wasn't going to see him again for a while and I just keep kicking myself. Like, I wish I would have just held on just a little bit longer. Just held the kiss for a little bit longer. 'Cause I don't know what I'm gonna see him again. [soft music comes in]

Earlonne: Be right back after a break.

Nigel: Like we said at the top, we're between seasons. And it's really hard not being able to see or work with our inside colleagues.

Earlonne: Nyge

Nigel: Yes?

Earlonne: Didn't you just hear above? We've been working with our colleagues inside. You know we the king of the workaround.

Nigel: That is true. [laughing] That is our motto. There is always a workaround. You're right.

Earlonne: Anyhow, while we're hustling up our next season, we wanted to tell you about some other shows out there that we've been checking out.

Nigel: One of the things that is so cool is that we are hearing more and more podcasts that share personal stories about life during and after incarceration.

Earlonne: We've been in touch with people making these in Australia, Spain, Italy, Norway, Russia...

Nigel: And we wanted to share a few of our favorites. This first one is from our friends at Prison Radio Association, across the pond in the UK.

Earlonne: They make a show produced by incarcerated people and broadcast and to a hundred prisons in England and Wales. And they also make a podcast series called, The Secret Life of Prisons.

Nigel: Here is a bit from the first episode, "The Arrival," where three formerly incarcerated people remember their first moments in prison.

[clip from episode, "The Arrival" from The Secret Life of Prisons begins]

Brenda: I went to prison with a weave and I now never wear weave because they stripped me off that weave and kind of just... Now I'm all natural 'cause yeah, never again. Like, they took it...

Paula: Your hair

Brenda: They took the weave – that they took it off my head. Like, they literally searched me and she said, "is this your hair?" And I remember that moment going, "what?" And she said, "is it yours? Is it sewed in? Or is it glued in, what is it?" [Paula affirms] And I went, "it's just a wig, just a wig." "You're going to have to take it off, love. We're just gonna zip it away in a bag." That was it. That was gone. So, when I have chemos and half of my real hair kind of hanging, looking like a mad woman.

Paula: I thought it really struck me when they took the rings off my fingers.

Brenda: Everything

Paula: And like my earrings.

Brenda: Everything's taken.

Paula: And then I thought, oh... this is... [crosstalk] and strip searched. Do men get strip searched?

Curtis: Indeed. They do.

Paula: How did you cope with that the first time?

Curtis: I kept my eyes closed.

Paula: And just like, take yourself out of it.

Curtis: Yeah. I just, I kept my eyes closed. I did what they asked without looking at them, to be honest. [Paula affirms] For me, that was the best way. I didn't want to have to see their expressions [Paula affirms] and their kind of open eyes. So, I just did it with my eyes closed. Um...

Paula: And that happens for women too. Doesn't it, Brenda?

Brenda: Yeah. But I feel like I blacked that all out, to be honest.

Paula: You blocked it out?

Brenda: Yeah. I feel like there's moments –

Curtis: – do they ask women to squat?

Brenda: You have to have to take everything off.

Paula: You have to take your knickers off, take your bra off.

Curtis: But they ask you to kind of squat and... [Paula and Brenda affirm]

Brenda: Yes.

Paula: It's very degrading.

Brenda: It's not humanizing.

Curtis: Have someone kind of – if I can remember correctly, I'm sure they asked me to cough 'cause it relaxes your, and you know, if you had anything hidden in that area, it would ultimately come out.

Brenda: Definitely come out.

Curtis: Yeah.

Paula: So, for me it was like, "take off your jewelry." And then, "here's your number." I think these were quite symbolic moments for me about this is what it is now. [Brenda affirms] You can't be you anymore. You're not Paula Harriet anymore. You're MM4865.

Brenda: Oh god.

Paula: Do you remember yours? [laughs]

Curtis: I do not. I erased it. [Paula laughs]

Brenda: I erased that as well.

Curtis: It's probably still imprinted in there somewhere, [Brenda affirms] but it's locked away somewhere in the memories to be forgotten. [soft music comes in] [clip from The Secret Life of Prisons ends]

Nigel: I know you know your CDCR number.

Earlonne: Which one? I had like three. When I was at youth authority, I had M6263. When I first went to prison, it was a E28749. And then when I – the current number that [00:15:00] I still have that still tracking me and still tracing me is P35554.

Nigel: Yeah. I knew you wouldn't forget it. And the cool thing about The Secret Life of Prisons is that it has a lot of conversation like that but it also has contributions from researchers, writers, and poets.

Earlonne: Yeah. Like this guy here, Carl Cattermole. He's reading something he wrote about the insanity of getting processed into prison. And he's a great reader, Nyge.

Nigel: And to note, Carl mentioned the TV license. Earlonne, have you ever heard of that?

Earlonne: Nah, not really.

Nigel: I've got to tell you what it is. Okay, that's something that you're supposed to have in the UK if you want to watch most television broadcasts and they cost about 200 bucks.

Earlonne: That's gate money in California.

Nigel: That's right.

[second clip from The Secret Life of Prisons begins]

Carl Cattermole: [reading] *You'll get given a standard set of blue plastic plates and bowls and plastic cutlery. Waiting to get processed, you'll sit in a holding cell and believe me it's... god, how do I describe a cocktail of brittle egos, hierarchy, lost kids who became men? Fear manifesting as aggression. Fear manifesting as fear. Trauma manifesting as drug abuse. Drug abuse, manifesting as cold turkey and cold turkey manifesting as diarrhea. And then there's me. Me slightly in the corner scratching my name and my sentence into the paintwork. Healthcare will call your name and speaking faster than a jungle MC the nurse will say, "suicide, history of violence, self-harm, sexuality addiction" punctuated by the damp clicks of an NHS mouse. But in often within earshot of the guards and prisoners. So especially when it comes to the suicide and self-harm and sexuality, honesty puts you in jeopardy.*

The system will come as a wholesale shock to your own. You'll be astounded at how inefficient the system is. How much stuff gets thrown over the wall and how easily they could prevent it if they actually wanted to. How little support is given to illiterate people and drug users when this would obviously stop them re-offending upon release. How many reformed people are rotting away when they're ready to be released? How people talk about overdosing positively because it's the only form of escapism? How people who don't pay their TV license gets sent to this shithole. And then don't have to pay for a TV license while they're here. How people write "Gucci" on their tracksuit with a biro and smoke teabags wrapped in Bible pages lit with toilet paper and bare cables coming out of a plug socket.

The thing you'll be most surprised about is how adaptable people are. And how many genuinely good-hearted people you end up meeting. [soft music comes in] [clip from The Secret Life of Prisons ends]

Nigel: That show is called The Secret Life of Prisons from our friends at the Prison Radio Association.

Earlonne: This next one comes from a podcast called Birds Eye View, made inside Darwin Correctional Centre on the Northern tip of Australia. The prison house is about 1,000 people.

Nigel: Okay. And I love this one. [Earlonne laughs] First of all, it's women's voices. They are super into the details of things. This is heavy rotation for me.

Earlonne: And in the first episode of the show, you hear some incarcerated women giving a tour of prison. Here's a bit of that.

[clip from episode, "Making HERstory" from Birds Eye View begins]

Rocket: Okay. My name is Rocket. And for my part of the tour, I'm taking you to Decepticon. That's where you go when you're being naughty. And that's four cells and they're away from everyone else. And you don't get out in the yard. There's a cement yard for when you're being naughty, but you get one hour exercise out in that yard a day.

And there's a camera in the cell. So, if you want to go to the toilet without being seen, you have to put the mattress up against the camera so they can't see. Oh yeah, and you're also, before you go into Decepticon, you have to get strip searched – cough, squat, and cough. [Rocket coughs followed by loud laughter from several women]

Darwin Correctional Centre Resident 1: I've got this library room. There's a few just sort of odd desks and chairs kicking around and a couple of blue couches, which tend to fill up really quickly because they're the nicest place to sit. It's cleaned about once a week, but we did have an issue here for a little while where people were cutting their toenails in here. But that seems to be cleaned up now. It's got a whole

row of bookshelves on one side, which for some reason is full of at least fifty percent of Love and Liaison books, which is all about throbbing members in their pants and the other sort of crap that goes on. It's not really the stuff you want to read in prison 'cause you know, there's a bit of a lacking of the male diversity in here. [laughter and light banter between women in the background]

Darwin Correctional Centre Resident 2: And this concludes your two out of...

Rocket: Sector [00:20:00] Four! [laughs] [clip from Birds Eye View ends] [transition music comes in]

Earlonne: From the podcast, Birds Eye View. Go check it out.

Nigel: Okay. The next one is way closer to home, like next door.

Earlonne: Yep. The podcast is called Uncuffed. It's a project from KALW in San Francisco, which is actually where you and I got our start in radio. [Nigel affirms] This one's produced by incarcerated people working in a room right next door to Ear Hustle studio at San Quentin.

Nigel: They also have a studio at Solano prison, which is about an hour away. That's where the first cut comes from. It's from a guy named Remus Sam Langi.

Earlonne: Remus is in prison for murder. This story picks up with him talking about his sister coming to visit him in prison.

[clip from episode, "Sky Boii" Uncuffed begins]

Remus Sam Langi: She asked me, "Hey man, so I'm hearing from my [speaks word in Tongan] and them and all your nephews that you've written so many songs. All you do is write songs." And I was like, "yeah, I got a lot of them." "Well, sing me one of your songs. Let me hear one of your songs!" And I was going through, you know, I was going through what song would be appropriate to sing for my sister and I couldn't think of one.

Interviewer: Because of what?

Remus: Because of the content of the songs, you know what I mean? [interviewer affirms] Like the taboo is that we can't swear when we're around each other. We can't...I can't be in her room. She can't be in my room. We can't even watch TV together.

Interviewer: So, you weren't able to share any of your music with your sister at that point in time?

Remus: None.

Interviewer: Tell me what happened after that? With your creativity, that is, what you wanted to do.

Remus: She tells me... it was a turning point for me, 'cause she tells me, "you can't sing one song, huh?" I was like, "No, I can't" She said, "why?" [speaks phrase in Tongan], meaning, "swear words, huh?" I was like, "yup." And she tells me, "man, why don't you write a song that when I hear it, I'll be proud to say that you're my brother. Or if your nieces hear the songs, [voice breaking] that they'll be proud to say that your uncle, you know. You sing beautiful songs." [acoustic guitar comes in] And that kinda like sparked this whole thing for me that I had never written my letter of remorse. And I go to what's natural for me. You know what I mean? Like uh...

Interviewer: The music.

Remus: To music. So, I go back to playing the guitar. And when I'm playing the guitar, the song comes to me, man. [Remus begins to sing and play his song, "Heaven"]

I stole her sunshine hmmm

Robbed her blind in the middle of the night hmmm

With a phone call

Bearing bad news

The dreadful kind

The kind you'd never want

Ya mother to hear

Her worst fears and nightmares

[clip from Uncuffed ends]

Nigel: Earlonne, it's actually really cool that there was another prison project coming out of KALW. And I know you're not inside San Quentin anymore but sitting in the media lab next to them and hearing what's going on is really inspiring. They're always having a great conversation.

Earlonne: I got a lot of love for KALW, Nyge.

Nigel: Yeah, me too.

Earlonne: Definitely. And also, I love hearing more voices come out of these prisons.

Nigel: Yep.

Earlonne: Here's one more snippet from Uncuffed. It's also about music as therapy.

Nigel: And Ear Hustlers might recognize the guy talking. It's Tommy Shakur Ross, who's currently incarcerated at San Quentin prison and has been on our show a few times.

[clip from episode "Maserati-E" from Uncuffed begins]

Tommy Shakur Ross: I'mma bring it to like relatively recent. Like on New Year's in 2018, my son was killed by police. Right. And so, I'm glad I had done the work because a whole lot of feelings was coming up for me. You're talking about anger; you're talking about rage. And I wanted to act on that. I wanted to get high. I wanted to, I wanted to... it didn't feel good at all. But one of the things that I did do was like, I listened to some of the most dark music I can find. [interviewer affirms]

Interviewer: Factual.

Tommy: You know, as a way to cope. Like, I'm not acting out these feelings, but this is how I feel. So, I listened to Brotha Lynch Hung. I don't know if you guys heard of him. [interviewer affirms]

Interviewer: Insane

Tommy: But yeah, he's like a *sick* rapper, right. Please don't judge me. [interviewer mimics Brother Lynch Hung] [Tommy laughs] But the thing was, I was able to listen to him and he was saying things that I felt. I was able to listen, like to NWA, right. They were saying things that I felt. You know, "F the police," But I wasn't acting out on those. So that lets me know that I was able to live like... that there's growth in me and I'm able to cope. You know, while I listen to that music and exercise it.

Interviewer: Yeah. That's a form of release. [soft music comes in] [clip from Uncuffed ends]

Earlonne: That's from the podcast Uncuffed, usually produced inside of San Quentin and Solano. Although like us, [00:25:00] they can't do any work inside right now.

Nigel: There's one more show made not too far from here that we wanted to call out.

Earlonne: It's a podcast called Life on the Outside. It's produced in Southern California. And it's about a subject that I deal with daily: what life is like after you get out of prison.

Nigel: In this episode, Kenneth Hartman is talking about going to a Walmart super center on his first day of freedom. He got to the pharmacy section and he kind of freaked out.

Earlonne: I still freak out at menus. So I understand. [music fades out]

[clip from episode, "Mother California" from Life on the Outside begins]

Kenneth Hartman: Like, I stood there for probably ten minutes looking at this aisle thinking, well, guess I should read every bottle and see what it says. Maybe this is the better one. [minimal piano music comes in] And at some point, a voice inside of me said, "this is not productive." And I just decided at that point, like, I'm just going to look and just go with the one that seems right and just go with it. So, I've kind of approached things like that because I don't want to get paralyzed by too much. And I went to get my first phone that day. The only thing I knew was my daughter told me I better get an Apple phone. [music fades out] So, I went in there and I got the iPhone 8. And [laughs] the young lady who's the salesperson comes walking up to me and I say, "yeah, you know, I think I want to get this, I-8 right here. And I'm just curious how much memory I should get. And she says, "well, how much memory do you have in your phone now?" And this was one of those moments, that's like you're telling me... this was a moment, like, so what am I going to do? [piano music comes in] And there's a debate amongst people inside. Do you tell people, or do you keep it a secret? I'm sure you probably know this from talking to many people. I elected... and I argued for inside that I was not going to hide that I had been in prison. I just decided I'm not going to do that. I don't want to lie to people. So, I just looked at her and I just sort of, you know, quietly, I said, "I don't have a phone." And she kind of looks at me sideways and I just sort of leaned a little bit closer. And I said, "I just got out of prison today. I've been in prison for 38 years." I'll never forget her because at some level I think it was sort of like the beginning of a whole series of great things. There was just this tiny flicker of hesitation. [music fades out] And then she just leaned right back closer to me. And she says, "you won't need much memory then." So, so it was just said so just matter-of-factly, like, she did not pull away from me. There was no like flinch of fear. And in truth, my whole experience might've been different if I got that kind of reaction, because from that point forward, I've been very open with people I meet, you know, I just tell people. [soft music comes in] [clip from Life on the Outside ends]

Earlonne: That's from the podcast Life on the Outside.

Nigel: E, we are in really good company here. It's amazing to be hearing all of these voices talking about their prison experience.

Earlonne: Yes, it is.

Nigel: And if you're still hungry for more voices from inside, we wanted to point you to a story about prison life that comes from some good friends and supporters of Ear Hustle.

Earlonne: Our partners over at Snap Judgment.

Nigel: Yup.

Earlone: It's the story of this guy named Gary Hayward. He grew up in a rough part of New York City and ended up becoming a CO. And what I like about this is *finally*, Nigel. *Finally*, a CO openly talks about something.

[clip from episode, "The Officer" from Snap Judgement begins]

Gary Hayward: My first day was terrifying. [footsteps walking on hard surface] When I first stepped inside that jail and that door closed behind me, [door closes shut] I was scared to death. STD: scared to death. I'm sitting there faced with individuals. Sometimes you hear, "Oh, this guy committed murder," or "this guy is a drug kingpin." So, you kind of looked at all of them the same way, like, whatever you did, that was your choice. You know, you make your bed, you lay in it.

Well, I have been on the job about three or four months, and then I heard somebody say, "Hey, G." [doomsday music comes in briefly] [percussive beat comes in] If somebody says "G" or "Gary," nine times out of ten, it's someone who knows me from out on the street. So, when I heard, "Hey, G," the first thing that came to mind is, this is somebody who knows me from the street. And when I turned around, it was my friend Biz, who I had grew up with. So, it was kinda like, holy snap – how do I handle this? I knew this was going to happen, but I didn't expect it to happen this soon. [music fades out] [clip from Snap Judgment ends]

Earlone: Things get crazy after that.

Nigel: That's "The Officer" from Snap Judgment.

Earlone: Also, before we go, we want to let you know about a project called Voices of San Quentin. It's produced by a group of people with ties to the prison, including our recently released friend, Jonathan Chiu. They're collecting stories about what it's like [00:30:00] inside and outside during COVID-19.

Jonathan Chiu: [over the phone] If you had a cellie and he's positive and you're not, they gonna lock both of you in there. You're going to get it regardless, because they have no more space to put anybody anywhere else.

San Quentin Resident: [over the phone] It's a good thing you answered the phone because I just tested positive. He says they won't let me call you for fourteen days. [acoustic guitar music comes in] And there's no way for you to call and check on me. And that was the phone call.

Nigel: You can find voices of San Quentin on Instagram.

Earlone: We'll have a link to everything we talked about today in the show notes and on our website, earhustlesq.com.

Nigel: There are also links there to a number of other podcasts that tell stories about incarceration. We couldn't talk about all of them on the show. There's so many, Earlone!

Earlonne: Man, indeed. Ear Hustle will be back with our sixth season on September 9th. In the meantime, find us on Twitter and Instagram @earhustlesq. We're also on Facebook too.

Nigel: We'll be posting some updates there, including about the coronavirus at San Quentin and in other California prisons,

Earlonne: You can also find out more about the project we mentioned at the top: our collaboration with the Prison University Project to get care packages and food to San Quentin residents and staff.

Nigel: Also, for the rest of the summer, Ear Hustle is giving 100% of the profits from all of our merch to the Prison University Project. So, if you've been meaning to pick up an Ear Hustle mug, a tee-shirt or stickers, now is the time. Just go to our website, earhustlesq.com.

Earlonne: Ear Hustle was produced by Nigel Poor, Rahsaan "New York" Thomas, Bruce Wallace, and me, Earlonne Woods.

Nigel: This bonus episode was sound designed and engineered by Antwan Williams.

Earlonne: Amy Standen edits the show, Erin Wade is the Digital Producer, and Judy Shapiro is the Executive Producer for Radiotopia.

Nigel: Ear Hustle would like to thank acting warden Ron Broomfield. And as you know, every episode of Ear Hustle, even these bonus episodes, has to be approved by this guy here...

Earlonne: Nope, Nope. Nope. I would not allow Sam Robinson to approve this episode. I will send this episode to headquarters and let this woman here approve it.

Terry Thornton: I'm Terry Thornton, Deputy Press Secretary for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and I approve this Summer Listening bonus episode.

Earlonne: This podcast was made possible with support from the Chan Zuckerberg initiative, working to redesign the justice system by building power and opportunity for communities impacted by incarceration.

Nigel: Ear Hustle is a proud member of Radiotopia from PRX, a collection of the best podcasts around. Hear more at radiotopia.fm. I'm Nigel Poor.

Earlonne: Damn, Nyge. This is it for the summer.

Nigel: Yeah, I know. I'm sad, actually. I'm a sad Nigel Poor.

Earlonne: And I'm a sad Earlonne Woods.

Earlonne and Nigel: Peace. [music fades out]

END OF EPISODE [00:33:06]