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So here I am...in treatment, 15 days under my belt...whoohoo! I cannot even begin to tell you how much I've learned about myself, addiction, etc. Unreal!! Hard, humbling, and honest. There are a lot of great people here - I'm staying in a lodge with 10 other women ranging in all ages, and they all have a different story, but we all have one thing in common.

I have to tell you about an assignment some of us were given. A group of us, men & women had to write our own obituary. Now...I looked at the counselor in disbelief & just started to cry (seems I've been doing quite a lot of these days). I was not happy about this and sat there for a long time.

Where I am men and women are only allowed to communicate or even look at each other during certain group activities. So, there I sat and thought to myself, I have to do this so get a grip and figure out first of all how it is you are going to die. I certainly don't want to die from alcohol use. So, I'm 76 yrs old, riding my bike and a drunk driver hits me. There was a man in my group just ahead of me. He reads his and his story is quite different. He leaves treatment, starts using right away. Six months later, on his birthday, he blows his brains out. There is much more to the obituary, I'm just giving you the jest of it.

A couple days later someone told me he's leaving this A.M. I saw him heading to the door and went up to him and said "Bob, I did not like your obituary, please tell me you won't die that way." He said "I won't, I really won't." Then I heard "HEY" in an angry tone. I was busted. I got myself into a little 24 hour trouble, but in my mind I needed to tell him that before he left. It was worth it.

There is a lot of laughter around here, and lasting friendships are being made. I miss everybody! My bike will be done when I'm out of here. I don't want to see it until I'm out of here. I don't even want to see pictures. I feel like I'll leave here a new me and my bike will be all new too! Man!! What a wonderful gift my boyfriend has given me. Wow!

Please don't think I'm going to turn into a prude. I will have to stay away from certain events for a while, I don't know how long that will be. This is a huge thing. I have some friends that are sober & sober riders, but I will want/need more. My whole life will change and I'm scared. That's ok though, I am willing to face my fears and move forward. There are a ton of riders out there that know oh so well what I'm going thru - MAN!!

So, take care. Laura the Potter laurathepoter@hotmail.com



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