PICTURES OF OTHERNESS

LIVING WITH HIV IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Collaborative photographic, video and text project

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what kind of person is it that takes the time...

to plan their deceit, to leave their home, to buy a card, to write these words, to post, to wait, to imagine with great satisfaction the destruction, the pain, the fear?

to you...

who planned their deceit, who left their home, who bought the card, who wrote these words, who posted the card, who waited and imagined the destruction, the pain, the fear? with great satisfaction...

YOU FAILED
“thoughts on my self?

HIV, in a way, is like a shadow. Not in any dramatic way like I'm saying it looms over my life, but it's a shadow that sometimes I catch a glimpse of, if my life is positioned in just the right way (routine hospital appointments or whatever), or sometimes it **does** become this huge black "me" shaped thing. Times when I've had medical problems, or worse, times when, on getting close to someone, they reject me because I'm HIV positive. That hurts like hell. Mostly though the worse it can do is inconvenience me, between routine appointments and specialist appointments, fitting in a very demanding full-time job which I love, as well as a near daily gym routine, it's sometimes difficult to do the HIV required things, such as blood checks, clinic visits and the like. That's really a good thing. I don't let it rule my life. It's there, part of me, jumps up and demands to be noticed sometimes but by and large, I tell it to "sit, stay, lie down". One day certainly I'll be the one to roll over and play dead. But not today, I'm far too busy...

aged 42
16 years living positively “
SECRECY  RAGE  SECLUSION  humiliation
LISTENING TO  STIGMA  SOLITUDE
CONFIDENTIALITY  CONCEALMENT  trust
ANGER
shame  LONELINESS  DEPRESSION  INDIGNITY
alone
WALK ALONG WITH
DISGRACE  EMBARRASSMENT  identity
rejection  sadness
MASK
ISOLATION
HOPE ...
see. no evil.
speak. no evil.
here. no evil.
see. no evil.
speak. no evil.
here, no evil.