

# GRANVILLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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1697 Fitcher Way, Cooperstown

To our newest Guard,

Welcome to the staff of the Granville Correctional Facility. That's correct—I have decided to offer you a position as a guard here at Granville. I hope that this comes as uplifting news in your time of mourning. The death of your father must have been particularly trying, and I hope that this helps alleviate the burden.

I took it upon myself to intervene in your situation and ensure that this position went to you. You are underqualified, yes, but there is room for you to grow at Granville, personally and professionally.

To be honest, I would think myself ungrateful if I did not honor your father's hard work by giving you a position here. He was a perfect fit for this institution—the prisoners here always liked having someone they could relate to as one of their supervisors—and he will be missed dearly by everyone in the Granville family.

But now you have a chance to make your own mark. When you begin your first day of employment at Granville, you will become the first female guard to ever work at our institution—a strange but welcome development now that the 1980s are upon us. Not only must you uphold your father's fine legacy, but now I expect you feel the weight of your entire gender upon your shoulders. It is my hope that this responsibility spurs you to do great work here at our facility.

I do have some concerns, however. We have a specific way of doing things here at Granville. Methods that have worked year in and year out for decades, and I do not wish to see those patterns disrupted. You may have heard rumors of extreme cases, tales of torture or wanton violence, and you may have it in your head that you can make a difference, that you can stand against such acts. Rest assured, not only are these stories lies, but any such insubordination is unacceptable, and may have dire repercussions.

Understand that I am rooting for you. Your father was an elite member of our facility, an individual I considered as part of my "inner guard," as it were. I would like to be able to call you a similar ally. I am willing to give you your father's badge as a sign of my trust and authority, a symbol of how much I believe in your potential here. But you must be willing to work with us as necessary.

On your first day, come in and familiarize yourself with the facility. Explore it, learn its corridors, learn its cells, learn its procedures. This is an old prison, replete with more than its fair share of incongruous additions, walled-off spaces and cells, and broken-down wings. She's been through a lot, this old girl, and she's mostly been kept alive by the will and care of those serving her.

I hope to find that you are willing to become a part of our family, that you are capable of meeting the needs of our institutional culture. The other guards have been ordered to answer your requests on this day, to facilitate your acclimation to the facility. I will, unfortunately, not be able to facilitate your introduction to Granville myself; I've been called to City Hall on short notice.

My one rule in my absence: do not enter my office. It is off-limits.

You can find your keys to the cells in this envelope, along with your father's badge. I am sure he would have wanted you to have it.

Do me proud. I look forward to talking when I return from City Hall.

Sincerely,

The Warden "Bluebeard"

P.S. I appreciated your kind words and gifts sent to me during the application process. While normally it would be improper to receive such gifts from a prospective employee, I accepted them as a family friend, and was truly grateful for them. Do not mistake my soft spot for you as weakness. Do not enter my office.