Earlonne Woods: [00:00:00] Hello.

Nigel Poor: [00:00:02] Hello. Hello. OK. Hm hm hm hmm. OK! I've never done this part before. You're now tuned into Ear Hustle from San Quentin State Prison in California. I'm Nigel Poor, a visual artist, now podcaster.

Earlonne Woods: [00:00:16] And I'm Earlonne Woods. And together, we're going to make an announcement.

Nigel Poor: [00:00:20] We got some breaking news, Earlonne. [Earlonne laughs.] It's the day before Thanksgiving, and today you got some amazing news.

Earlonne Woods: [00:00:26] I just saved a bundle by switching to Geico. [Both laugh.] After 21 years in prison, Gov. Brown — the great governor of California —

Nigel Poor: [00:00:42] Absolutely!

Earlonne Woods: [00:00:44] — decided that I served enough time in California state prison, and he commuted my sentence to be released forthwith, immediately, right now, it's time to go.

Nigel Poor: [00:00:59] Time for E to walk out that gate.

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:02] Time to walk out that gate. I talked to his legal team. They called me — they, they, they call you, they take you to the captain's porch. They told me, they was like, "Governor Brown feels you should be released." Just like that.

Nigel Poor: [00:01:16] What was it like to hear that?

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:18] It's out of body — it's like ... no! So when they're saying that,
I'm thinking about my mama.

Nigel Poor: [00:01:26] Mm.

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:26] You know?

Nigel Poor: [00:01:27] Yeah.

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:27] I'm thinking about my mama. She's up there. She's 70. And, um ...

Nigel Poor: [00:01:32] Yeah, but I've seen her picture. She is a good-looking woman. And she —

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:35] Yeah, she's holding on, she's holding on.

Nigel Poor: [00:01:35] Yup, yup, yup.

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:37] She's holding on, you know?

Nigel Poor: [00:01:39] Mrs. Woods —

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:39] Just to be a male figure, out there with her.

Nigel Poor: [00:01:43] Yeah.

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:43] And that's what she said. She said that!

Nigel Poor: [00:01:45] What did she say?

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:46] Something like, you know ... something! We going to go to the tape. [Nigel laughs.] [Sfx: Phone rings.]

Earlonne Woods: [00:01:55] She might think we're a bill collector. OK. [Other voices murmur.]

Alyce Woods: [00:02:00] [On the phone] Hello?

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:01] Hello, is this the mother of Earlonne Woods?

Alyce Woods: [00:02:06] Well, it sounds like Earlonne Woods is ... talking! [Earlonne laughs.]

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:11] Hey, Mama, it finally came. They commuted my sentence today, so that means —

Alyce Woods: [00:02:16] Ah!

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:16] Yes. That means —

Alyce Woods: [00:02:18] Oh my God, I get to have a man around the house! [Laughs.] [Someone screams in the background.]
Earlonne Woods: [00:02:21] [Laughing.] Oh, sadly I'm not coming back down south. No.

Alyce Woods: [00:02:25] Aw!

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:25] No, I paroled to Oakland. But I'll be down there! But I paroled to Oakland.

Alyce Woods: [00:02:31] Well then I'll be in Oakland! [Laughs.] Yep ...

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:34] So, um ...

Alyce Woods: [00:02:35] [Speaking away from the phone] Your uncle's coming home!

A child: [00:02:39] [In the background] Yay!!

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:39] Indeed!

Alyce Woods: [00:02:40] I got your — I got your sister's children here. [Laughing.]

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:45] Ah. Well I'm really not coming there, then. If you're ... [Laughing.]

Alyce Woods: [00:02:48] Oh, Earlonne, don't say that! [Both laugh.]

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:51] You know what? Well, hey, um ...

Alyce Woods: [00:02:54] [Still laughing.] You know you always were crazy!

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:58] So —

Alyce Woods: [00:02:58] Oh my God, I'm so happy! [Phone call fades out.]

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:01] Whew. You know. See, I'mma tell you, like ... serving my mother with that news, and, um ... she probably praised the Lord a million times. [Nigel laughs.] You know what I mean? It was like ... [laughs.] And the associate warden that was in there, he was like, "Man, you know, this is the first time I'm witnessing one of these commutations." You know, he say, shit, "I feel happy for you."

Nigel Poor: [00:03:25] Aw, that's great!

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:26] You know, so ...

Nigel Poor: [00:03:27] There's so much we've got to — there's so much to talk about. So, I think we need to do a full-on episode about this whole commutation process.

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:34] Of course.

Nigel Poor: [00:03:34] What it means.

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:36] Of course.
Nigel Poor: [00:03:36] What it means for you, what it means for Ear Hustle, what the future is going to look like.

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:41] Whew!

Nigel Poor: [00:03:41] So, can we say our next episode is going to be E leaving prison?

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:46] So, for the next story, it's probably going to be my plight.

Nigel Poor: [00:03:54] Mhmm.

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:54] My flight.

Nigel Poor: [00:03:55] Yeah. Your flight. Let's say, yeah, for the next story —

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:57] My plight, and my flight. [Nigel laughs.] And my delight. And probably one winter night. [Both laugh unrestrainedly.]

Nigel Poor: [00:04:07] Well, I have to say, E, it's great news. I'm so happy for you. Happy Thanksgiving.

Earlonne Woods: [00:04:16] Every day finna be Thanksgiving!

Nigel Poor: [00:04:16] That's right.

Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:04:19] [In a voicemail.] This is Lt. Sam Robinson at San Quentin State Prison. This is definitely a very special time, and then again, we're thankful for many things this time of year. But, specifically with Ear Hustle and those who listen to Ear Hustle, I believe we are all thankful that Earlonne Woods gets another chance to reach out beyond the walls of San Quentin and experience the world beyond the walls of prison. And so: this is Lt. Sam Robinson at San Quentin State Prison, and I approve this message. Bye! [Phone clicks, Sam hangs up.]

Female voice: [00:04:52] End of message. To repeat this message, press 1. To save it, press 2. To delete it, press 3. To forward this message, press 5 ... [Fade out.]