

A Few of My Favorite Things. by Catherine LaFleur

1. People move to Florida and pay millions of dollars to live in a gated community. I'm getting it for free. Ha ha suckers!
2. Being licked on the palms and soles of my feet by Golden Retrievers is much more enjoyable than the Old Testament would have you believe.
3. Lying down with dogs....specifically golden fluffball puppies, and I never get up with fleas. There's pills for that.
4. The Free Traders Market. No, I don't want the usual contraband, just red lipstick, hair clips, sewing needles, embroidery thread, plums, mangoes, yogurt, grapes, salads from Publix Supermarket, greeting cards, and seasonal USPS stamps. Money buys everything in prison.
5. Ducks, cats, turtles, pink spoon bills, Egyptian geese, hawks, egrets, peacocks, rock pigeons, parrots, parakeets, woodpeckers, owls, grasshoppers, dragonflies, purple martins, butterflies, gray cranes, a stork, buzzards, giant land toads, and very large Godzilla lizards.
6. Kind and interesting writing friends: Marina Bueno, Vicki Hicks, Michele Lochridge, Paula Grieve, Jennifer Sparks, Cheryl White, Eulie Polanco
7. Other writers who inspire me: Kwaneta Harris, James Bauhaus, Nate Lindell, Vinicio Garcia, Leo Cardez, Rolf Rathmann, Sheila LaBarre, and the inimitable Karla Wooten, who is remembered fondly by many readers in FDOC.
8. My faithful family and friends: Uncle Dirk, Ellie, Rus, Joyeaux, and Hero.
9. Having more teeth than my older brothers and sisters did in middle age. Finally, I beat them at something!
10. Meditation practice and the ability to live and say my mantra
May you be happy
May you be healthy
May you be safe
May you be at ease

The cancer of complaining can be driven out with gratitude.
I remain your faithful correspondent.