

Interview with Esperanza about her incarceration.



The following is a transcript of an impromptu interview conducted by me (Felix Dartmouth) on 2/22/2006 of the model Esperanza. When I was explaining the operation of handcuffs to her, she told me that had been handcuffed before. I asked her if I could question her on-camera, thinking that she had been arrested perhaps one time. I was not aware of what she was going to say, and the interview unfolded unrehearsed as you see it here. I found this a fascinatingly honest and candid recollection of her incarceration.

This video interview can be seen on the "[French Maid Bondage](#)" DVD, which is published by [Archives BBS](#). The run-time of the interview is

just under 12 minutes.

FADE IN:

INT. BLANK WALL -- DAY

ESPERANZA is wearing jeans and a ribbed long-sleeved sweater. Her hands are locked in handcuffs, and these are fed through the ring of a leather transport belt. A connector chain was attached from the belt ring to her leg irons leg-irons (off camera).

FELIX

Ever been handcuffed before?

ESPERANZA

Yep, when I was in juvenile?

Baby crying in the background.

FELIX

Juvenile? Yeah, what did they do?

ESPERANZA

Pretty much like this and they hogtied me and put me in restraints

and had me handcuffed pretty much two or three hours.

FELIX

You must have put up quite a fight! What do you mean they hogtied you?

ESPERANZA

They put me in this, and instead of this long one on, they had a shorter one.

FELIX

Behind your back?

ESPERANZA

Yep, behind my back or in front, it depended on how I acted if I put up a fight when I was restrained.

FELIX

Were you in a cell or something?

Esperanza nods in the affirmative.

FELIX (CONT'D)

So, they kept you chained up in a cell the whole time?

ESPERANZA

Yep, on a slab. On a brick slab.

FELIX

Wow, on cement, on brick, and when did they let you go?

ESPERANZA

Uh, it depends, they really didn't let me go until I quieted down and I stopped banging my head on the steel, or the door.

FELIX

Did you hurt yourself?

ESPERANZA

Sometimes, but they were afraid I would hurt them, that's why they hogtied me.

FELIX

How many times did this happen?

ESPERANZA

Well, set's see, I was there for a year, and I'd say 90% of the time?

FELIX

You didn't want to be there.

ESPERANZA

Yep - I didn't want to be in the room and if I was going to be in the room, I was going to have some company is if they were going to restrain me.

FELIX

So you were in there for a year, so this happened more than three or four times?

ESPERANZA

Oh, yeah!

FELIX

Oh, really!

ESPERANZA

All the time. I was always hogtied I wasn't allowed to come out of my room without this.

Esperanza pulls up on the handcuffs and the transport belt that is tightly fastened around her waist.

FELIX

So, whenever you were out of your cell, they kept you in restraints.

ESPERANZA

Um hmm.

FELIX

Usually behind her back

Esperanza points at the cuffs, and the leather belt.

ESPERANZA

Just the handcuffs and the belt.

FELIX

Oh, OK, handcuffs and belt. Where was this, was this in Houston, or where?

ESPERANZA

It was in Kerrville, right outside San Antonio.

FELIX

In Kerrville. Now, how did you get out to Kerrville, did they take you out on a bus?

ESPERANZA

They take you out on a bus, they restrain you just like this. They take you out of the juvenile detention center in Houston. They take you on a van restrained to the seats with five other people or however many other people are going with you and when they get into Kerrville and get into the facility, they drive into a fenced parking lot and they take you in.

The camera is adjusted and more detail is revealed about Esperanza's restraints.

FELIX

So, when you were in Kerrville, and you were there for a year, did they ever use straitjackets or any kind of hospital restraints?

ESPERANZA

No, they basically had us in dresses, long dresses so when we tried to kill ourselves, we couldn't to that and that's it.

FELIX

Those were the dresses you wore all the time, right?

ESPERANZA

No, those were for people who couldn't wear pants or long sleeves, because they tried to kill themselves.

FELIX

Oh, I see, so you couldn't strangle yourselves.

ESPERANZA

Yeah,

FELIX

And the dress wasn't a restraint, it was just a dress.

ESPERANZA

Yeah.

FELIX

Did they ever gag you or anything like that?

ESPERANZA

No, basically they handcuffs. They would handcuff you behind your back and leave you there and then you would fight, and they would put the belt on you, and you would fight some more and they would put the feet shackles on you and you would fight some more, and then they would hogtie you.

FELIX

So, if you kept fighting, they would put more and more restraints on you and this happened 20 or 30 or 40 times?

ESPERANZA

Um Hmm - and it happened sometimes when I had a roommate we would get together and say "Ok, were going to get restrained today" and we'd make a riot in the dorm and we'd both get restrained and we'd both fight the juvenile detention officers.

FELIX

Did you do that just to get a rise out of all the officers and stuff?

Esperanza laughs.

ESPERANZA

Yeah, it was like a planned thing. I have been knocking my head against the concrete slab on the bed and we've had fighting so much, I've had knocks on by head and bruises from getting slammed on the concrete floor.

FELIX

If you got hurt, would they give you medical attention?

ESPERANZA

No, that's our own fault because we fought.

FELIX

Well what if you got sick, did the have an infirmary or hospital?

ESPERANZA

Yes, they had nurses - we weren't allowed - it was a lock-down maximum security juvenile place - we weren't allowed to touch the doors. If we touched the doors it was considered AWOL so we'd get strangled, we'd get thrown to the floor and we'd get tied up.

Esperanza lift up her handcuffs as much as she could to illustrate being "tied up".

FELIX

Wow, were these like women who did this, or men?

ESPERANZA

Women, men, it depends who was around. Most of the time the women couldn't control the girls so the guys would have to come in with the restraints.

FELIX

They were stronger. Wow, good grief.

Break - fade to back and back up.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Excuse me, this is super interesting. Now, let me ask one or two more questions. What about food and stuff, did you have a mess-hall, or did they bring food to your cell?

ESPERANZA

Since it was a program that I was on, it was called "OIP" and I was on the highest thing you could get into trouble with. That was the highest level you could get in and I was on it. That means you can't come out of your room at all unless you are handcuffed. We only had 4 minutes

to take a shower and that was in handcuffs. You could have one hand out, but me, knowing how to get out of handcuffs, I could get both of them out - but they had us eat in the gym - our cafeteria - but I wasn't allowed to interact with the other juveniles so I had to eat in my room. And, they made me sit on my bed facing the wall, and they would put my food in and then they would leave. I would have to wait for them to say "OK, you can get your food" to move forward.

FELIX
OK, but you weren't restrained when you were eating, right?

ESPERANZA
Yeah!

FELIX
Oh, you were in handcuffs when you were eating?

ESPERANZA
Yeah!

FELIX
Even in your cell?

ESPERANZA
Well, if I was restrained right before we ate, they wouldn't give me any food until I calmed down.

FELIX
Oh.

ESPERANZA
So, if I didn't calm down that whole day, I didn't eat that whole day.

FELIX
Wow



ESPERANZA

So, most days I didn't calm down,
because they wouldn't give my food
when I wanted my food.

FELIX

So, you were hot!

ESPERANZA

Yeah

FELIX

So, you spend a whole year without
ever being out of your cell without
restraints?

ESPERANZA

Without seeing whether it was day or
night. We had no windows, none of
that. There were windows in the
ceiling, but they were covered by
plywood.

FELIX

I see.

ESPERANZA

So, we couldn't see if it was hot,
cold, - I got to get out of my cell
one time because I busted my head- I
have a wound right there.

Esperanza tried to point to a place on her head, but her
restraints prevent her from doing so.

FELIX

Just one more question, we need to
get on with the photo session, but
this is fascinating!

ESPERANZA

They had to videotape us.

FELIX

So, whenever you all were
restrained, they

ESPERANZA

They had to videotape us.

FELIX

Well, what if you were just coming
out of your cell?

ESPERANZA

Oh, when I was just coming out of my cell, they would - nobody else was allowed out when I came out - so that was my punishment - I wasn't allowed to interact with any of my peers - when I was out of my cell, handcuffs, I wasn't allowed to talk with any of the other juveniles.

FELIX

What kind of cell was it - was it one of those closed doors, with a peephole?

ESPERANZA

We had a little box and it had a long, thin window, but being on the program I was, we got it covered up, so we couldn't see outside.

FELIX

So, you were restrained from even seeing outside.

ESPERANZA

Tell me, what was the name of the program you were on?

FELIX

OIP?

ESPERANZA

Oh, I forgot, I know it's the worst thing you can get on and when I got out of that place, man, I got out, not because I was good, not because my time was up, but because the government was tired of paying for me - so I got out on the worst possible program you can be on.

FELIX

Good, so you're 19 now, right?

Esperanza nods.

FELIX (CONT'D)

How old were you at this time?

ESPERANZA

Fourteen.

FELIX

Wow, you were super-young. You were a bad-ass!

ESPERANZA

Yes! I was!

Esperanza nods and gives a big smile.

FELIX

Well, you're so nice now! Now, when you came out of your cell, did they just handcuff you, or did you have to put your hands through one of those portholes where they get you cuffed before you come out?

ESPERANZA

No, they trusted us, so they would open the door and we'd come and they'd handcuff us. Before they opened the door, they'd ask "Are you going to not fight me? And sometimes we'd say "Yes, we're going to fight you, so don't open my door". And sometimes we'd tell them "No" and fight them anyway.

FELIX

What if you said "No, I'm not going to fight you" and then they opened the door and you started fighting them anyway?

ESPERANZA

Well, they have walkie-talkies and they call the other staff and they say well DELETED is going crazy, come help me restrain her and they'd yank our feet from under us and we'd fall head-first on the floor and we'd just get restrained, then we'd get throw back into our room, and there was no shower for us.

FELIX

Wow.

ESPERANZA

That was the only time we came out of our cell was for a shower.

FELIX

So, if they wanted to handcuff you with your hands behind your back, would you put your hands behind your back, or do they just kind of grab you -



ESPERANZA
No, they would tell us, "put your hands behind your back" but most of the time, me, being rebellious, and a bad teenager, I would tell them "No, I'm not doing nothing. Close my damn door!" So, they would have to fight!

Esperanza give a big beaming smile.

FELIX
So, you never were ball-gagged at the facility?

ESPERANZA
No.

FELIX
Is it OK if I ball-gag you now?

Esperanza nods in assent.

ESPERANZA
Yeah!

FADE OUT - End of interview.