

# gutwrench.

Nov. 7, 2016

Dear Readers & Writers,

Lately, putting pen to paper hasn't been so easy. We almost didn't publish this.

Add it to the list of unwritten and unsent letters.

There are few among us who could call 2016 an easy year. It has been anything but easy.

Here at gutwrench, we've not been immune to the pain of this corrosive year. We, along with our families, have faced personal and professional challenges. Adding to the long, long list of lives claimed by time, 2016 took Diamond Lil, one of our favorite creative spirits in Atlanta and our first contributor. Diamond was no stranger to tough times, and she would have encouraged us to put on our best going-out faces and saunter on down to the next VFW Halloween Ball.

Sometimes, there's no recipe for how to thrive or even survive the most bitter times other than to simply continue or endure.

And so we will soldier on. In spite of the current and looming darkness, we will continue.

If you're looking for a prompt in here, you found it. We'd love to read your unsent letters, your meditations on endurance. But we'd also be interested in your poems, short stories, audio narratives or any creative literary-type thing you've been cooking up. Help us do our part to sprinkle just a little bit of good on top of the ashes of this godforsaken year.

Get your submissions to gutwrench by Dec. 15, 2016.

Regards,

Daniel Ben