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## *I Hope You Love Lilac*

Written By: Harry Gribnitz

*It will probably be raining or cold or both on Tuesday. I am really too busy to be bothered. The lines will be long. I have to take the kids to school, then to practice. My oldest needs a ride to the orthodontist. I need the time to get my gear ready for gun deer season. My boss doesn't like me to take time off from work. My toenails need clipping. My vote doesn't count anyway. If you didn't find your excuse in this list, feel free to add it.*

*As I drove to the office this morning, I was listening to the radio. I heard a commercial about a guy who had taken his car to an auto painter to have it painted midnight blue. When he called the dealer to see if his car was ready to be picked up, he was told they have painted it lilac! Insisting that he had ordered midnight blue, he was told that "they" decided to change the order to lilac. As he heads toward the paint shop, the commercial ends with threatening words. I guess he cares enough about choosing the color of his car to take some action.*

*Nasrine readied her four children for school. Her son and three daughters have a long walk to the village school, but at least now they have chairs for every student and books for most. Nasrine has a long day ahead of her. She will walk to the next village, since she is too poor to own a donkey, to cast her vote for the very first time. The weather north of Kabul is dreadful. The wind is howling and swirling the first snowflakes of the season. The warlords have threatened to blow up the polling place. She prays the government and the Americans can keep her safe so she can return to her children tonight. After a long wait in line, she finally gets to cast her vote. Nasrine doesn't care that the ink on her thumb smears as she cries into her hands. For the first time she has had a voice in the direction of her country and the future of her children and grandchildren.*

*Please join me at the polls on Tuesday November 2nd. Find one issue important enough to get you out in the rain or cold. The War on Terror? Homeland Security? High or low taxes? Social Security? Casinos in West Michigan? Marriage? Education? The selection of a single local official or judge? The future of your children? If you don't care, "they" will choose for you. **I hope you love lilac.***

Thank you,

Harry Gribnitz

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