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THIS BOOK IS A COMPILATION OF POEMS I HAVE WRITTEN, MOSTLY ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF INCARCERATION. I AM SENDING THIS BOOK TO PRISONS FOUNDATION FOR PUBLISHING AS WELL AS SUBMISSION FOR THE ANNUAL "FROM PRISON TO THE STAGE" SHOW.

THANK YOU.

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DEDICATION

THIS IS FOR ALL THE YOUNG HOMIES
OUT THERE RUNNING AMUCK, LOCKED
UP, TRYING TO SURVIVE...

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE ON STUPID
SHIT.

MUCH LOVE,
DREAMER

"I Am"

By: TYLER HAMILTON

NEW DRINK, NEW TWIST
JUST TO CAPTURE YOUR MIND
WHEN YOU LOOK IN MY EYES
WHAT DO YOU FIND?

I AM A HOOLIGAN
IS IT ALL YOU SEE?
IF YOU HAD ONE WORD TO USE
WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I'M A MUTHA FUCKING MANIAC
WHEN PUSHED TOO FAR
AN AMBITIOUS HUSTLER
PUSHING THE BAR

I AM A LOVER* A FIGHTER
WITH A WARRIORS WAYS
LOYALTY IS THE VIRTUE
WHERE MY HEART LAYS

I'M A FAMILY MAN, LOST
JUST TRYING TO PRODUCE
A ROMANTIC FOOL
EASY TO SEDUCE

I AM A DREAMER
LOCKED IN A CAGE
FULL OF FUCK THE WORLD
ANGER & RAGE

A MUTHA FUCKIN CHILD
STUCK IN A PUT
RABID ASS DOG
A MANGY ASS MUTT

I'M SCARRED & TATTOOED
MY MINDS A MESS
I GET HIGH AS FUCK
TO EASE THE STRESS

A HARD WORKING MAN
WHO NEVER HELD A JOB
A NOT SO GOOD CRIMINAL
KNOWN TO HUSTLE & MOB

I AM THE SEED OF CHUCKY
TO THOSE WHO TRESPASS
LESSONS LEARNED HARD
THOSE SCARS WILL LAST

I'M A GOOD ASS FRIEND
BEEN A BAD ONE TOO
BUT THICK OR THIN
I'LL SEE IT THROUGH

I AM A STUPID ASS FOOL
FULL OF POTENTIAL
ONE OF A KIND
A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL

I AM ALL OF THIS + MORE
SIMPLY A MAN
JUST TRYING TO LIVE
THE BEST THAT I CAN...

AFTER YEARS
I'VE BEEN LOCKED AWAY
STUCK IN A CAGE
BUT ITS A BRAND NEW DAY

IN SO MANY WAYS
THE STREETS ARE A NEW PLACE
AND IT FEELS LIKE EVERYBODY
IS STARING AT MY FACE

CROWDS ARE THE WORST
THEY CLOSE IN SO TIGHT
MY BREATH FALLS SHORT
I PREPARE TO FIGHT

INSTITUTIONALIZED MIND
I'M A WALKING WRECK
TATTOOS STAIN MY BODY
HEAD, FACE & NECK

HUNGRY & ALONE
POCKETS FEEL SO FLAT
I USE MY GATE MONEY
TO BUY A STRAP

CYCLE, CYCLE
MERRY GO ROUND
HUDDLED IN THE SHADOWS
I SOAK IN THE SOUND

OF THE CITY AT NIGHT
RICH WITH OPPURTUNITY
LOOKING AT MY STRAP
THE TRUTH GETS TO ME

ROUND & ROUND
HERE I GO AGAIN
ITS CRUNCH TIME AND
I CHOOSE A LIFE OF SIN

BARELY EVEN TRY
I GIVE UP TOO FAST
THIS IS WHY MY FREEDOM
NEVER LASTS

NEVER FIND PEACE
PLAYING THE GAME
JUST WAKE UP IN COUNTY
WAITING ON THE CHAIN

By: TYLER HAMILTON

STUCK IN A CYCLE

I KNOW I CAN BREAK

TOSSING THE STRAP

ITS THE FIRST STEP I TAKE...

MAMA, DON'T CRY NOW
WESSON PROTECTS ME
CRY WHEN I'M GONE
AND MY BREATH YOU CAN'T SEE

SAY A LIL PRAYER
AND SEND OUT A WISH
JUST IN CASE
SAVE ONE LAST KISS

A KISS OF SAVING GRACE
IN LIFE NO GRACE COULD SAVE ME
ASPIRED TO BE A MENACE
A MENACE CAME TO BE

MAMA DON'T CRY
THINGS ARE WHAT THEY ARE
I'M TRYING TO GO BIG
SO I SHOOT FOR THE STARS

JACK FOOLS, PULL JACKS MOVES
A HUSTLERS DREAM
JUST TRYING TO GET IT
THE CROP * THE CREAM?

By: TYLER HAMILTON

I WANT TO LIVE LIFE
FULL OF MILK * HONEY
PURSUING THE DREAM
CHASING POWER * MONEY

MAMA DON'T CRY
PLEASE BE AT REST
YOU ALWAYS LOVED ME
AND DID YOUR BEST

I WAS DESTINED FOR THIS SHIT
HOW ELSE DO I EXPLAIN?
ALL THE CRAZY SCHEMES
THAT PLAQUE MY BRAIN

I MAKE THE MOST OF A LIFE
THAT STARTED OUT FUCKED
PISTOL IN MY LAP
KEPT COCKED * TUCKED

MAMA, CRY WHEN I'M GONE
AND MY BREATH YOU CAN'T SEE
FOR NOW, JUST KNOW
MY STRAP PROTECTS ME...

"FUCK UP"

BY: TYLER HAMILTON

I TEND TO FUCK UP

I'M A FUCK UP

I'M FUCKED UP

AND A FUCKING NUT

I'VE BEEN LOST FOR TOO LONG

VICTIM TO MY OWN HAND

NOT AT ALL WHAT I'D DREAMED

FAR FROM ALL I'D PLANNED

THERES DEAD CLOCKS ON THE WALL

TIME IS SO DAMN MEANINGLESS

CLEAR OUT THE FOG IN MY HEAD

BUT ITS A GODDAMN MESS

I'M WRECKED, I'M PLAQUED

LET ME OFF THIS RIDE

BUT HOW CAN I GIVE UP?

I HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED

I'VE THROWN IN THE TOWEL

AGAIN & AGAIN

FORFEITING WHAT COULD BE

ACCEPTING ALL ITS BEEN

HANDCUFFS & SHACKLES

BLOODY TATTOOED TEARS

FLOATING ON A MEMORY

LOCKED AWAY FOR YEARS

By: TYLER HAMILTON

TRAPPED IN THIS MAZE
WHEN WILL IT CEASE?
EVEN AS A FUCK UP
I STILL SEEK OUT PEACE...

WHERE IS IT?

"IN MOMENTS"

BY: TYLER HAMILTON

LIFE CHANGES FAST
SHATTERED IN MOMENTS
A THOUGHT PULLS THE TRIGGER
A FINGER COMMITTS

SENDING OFF A ROUND
TO AN EARLY GRAVE
THE EFFECTS SPREADING OUT
LIKE A RIPPLING WAVE

LIVES ARE LOST
FAMILIES BROKEN
THERES TEARS IN THE EYES OF
THE MOTHERS OF BOTH MEN

MEMORIAL SERVICE
THE CASKETS CLOSED
FOR THE OTHER, LIFE
IS THE SENTENCE IMPOSED

THEIR CHILDREN CRYING
THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
"WHERE IS DADDY?"
THE CHILDREN DEMAND

THEIR WIVES ARE DYING
NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY
FULL OF ANGER & PAIN
THEY CURSE THE DAY

HIDING THEIR TEARS
THEY STIFLE THEIR MOAN
AND COMMENCE TO RAISE
THEIR KIDS ON THEIR OWN...

THERES A MONKEY ON MY BACK
THE FUCKERS PULLING ME DOWN
THE FILTHY COTTON IN MY SPOON
IS A DARK SHADE OF BROWN

THIS IS THE ONLY MEDICINE
THAT I TRULY KNOW
TAKING MY WHOLE LIFE
IT KILLS ME SLOW

ADRENALINE COURSES THROUGH ME
AS I TIE OFF A ROPE
THAT FUCKING MONKEY SO EAGER
TO FEAST ON THE DOPE

I LOOK AT THE NEEDLE
SO SICK TO MY STOMACH
HATING THIS SHIT
BUT I'M A GODDAMN ADDICT

IN NEED OF A 'GET WELL'
SACRIFICING MY PRIDE
DAMN MONKEY PROMISED PEACE
BUT HE OBVIOUSLY LIED

I'VE CHASED IT & CHASED
SPOON TO THE FLAME
NEVER CATCHING THE GHOST
JUST MORE OF THE SAME

AND THEN SOME; I'M DYING
FROM A LIVER DISEASE
PLAYING WITH DOGS
YOU WILL GET FLEAS

I FIND THE VEIN EASY
RED SWIRLS INTO BLACK
HERION DROWNS OUT
THE MONKEY ON MY BACK

HEAT RUSHES THROUGH ME
DOPAMINE IN MY BRAIN
OPIATE KISSES
EASING THE PAIN

MY HEART BEAT SLOWS
CHIN HITS MY CHEST
I BATTLE TO BREATHE
DOING MY BEST

By: TYLER HAMILTON

DRIIFT INTO A NAD
MY BODY SLUMPS IN THE FIGHT
KILLED BY THE MONKEY
MY SPIRIT MOVES TOWARD THE LIGHT...

"WHERE ARE YOU?"

By: TYLER HAMILTON

I CLOSE MY EYES IN SOLITUDE

IMAGINING YOUR FACE

YOUR SOFT * CARING TOUCH

OH, ITS SILK * ITS LACE

I KNOW YOU OUT THERE

PROBELY SEARCHING FOR ME

YET, I'M CONFINED IN HELL

RAZOR WIRE IS ALL I SEE

BUT IN MY HEART

I TEAR FOR YOUR SMILE

WANTING TO HOLD YOU CLOSE

TO BE AT PEACE FOR AWHILE

SEEKING COMFORT AND LOVE

THE TOUCH OF YOUR HAND

I SEARCH OUT THE WORLD

ALL ACROSS THE LAND

WHEN I FIND YOU

I'LL THANK THE MAN UPSTAIRS

TOGETHER WE'LL SHINE

OVERCOMING OUR FEARS

TWO HEARTS WILL INTWINE

BEATING AS ONE

OH, THE PASSION WE'LL SHARE

THE LAUGHTER * FUN

WHERE ARE YOU, MY LOVE?
TELL ME, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU
ARE YOU SEARCHING THE SAME?
I'M RIGHT HERE
TAKE A CHANCE & SEE
THE MAN YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING
IS ME...

THERES A WHISPER ON THE WIND
SWEET SOUNDING MUSICAL TONE
SINKING DEEP INTO THE MARROW
DOWN DEEP WITHIN THE BONE

A SOUND OF LOVE & PASSION
EVEN CHILDREN @ PLAY
THE SOUND OF FREEDOM
WITH SO MUCH TO SAY

IT WHISPERS ON THE WIND
CARRIED UPON A BREEZE
SO NATURAL TO CONVICTS
LIKE WIND FLOWING THROUGH TREES

ITS A WHISPER FROM HOME
BRINGING SMILES & TEARS
ITS ABSENCE IS ANXIETY
CAUSING ANGER & FEARS

TEAR FOR IT DAILY
THAT MUSICAL TUNE
ONCE HEARD, ONE HOPES
TO HEAR IT AGAIN SOON

By: TYLER HAMILTON

IT HAS A MIGHTY POWER
TO CALM A RAGING STORM
TO CHEER A LONELY SOUL
MAKE A COLD HEART WARM

THE WHISPER BUILDS INTENSITY
THAT CAN ALL TOO QUICKLY FALL
DEPENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT
ONE HITS ON MAIL CALL

"TICK TOCK"

By: Tyler Hamilton

TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK
SAYS THE CLOCK
STILL BREATHING
FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE ROCK

PROGRAM TIME
WAKE THAT ASS UP
CLEAN UP YOUR CELL
PUT COFFEE IN YOUR CUP

ROLL UP YOUR MATTRESS
IT'S STUDY HOUR
HERE THE STRONG SURVIVE
KNOWLEDGE TRULY IS POWER

DRINK ALOT OF WATER
WALK REAL SLOW
DRIVE BODY * MIND
CONTINUE TO GROW

TAKE TIME FOR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS ALIKE
NEVER GIVE UP
CONTINUE TO FIGHT

RECOGNIZE THE TACTICS
THE STATE ATTACKS WITH
PREPARE TO BATTLE
WHEN SHIT TURNS DRASTIC

ITS BLUE AGAINST GREEN
NEVER FORGET
SHOW RESPECT * COURTESY
OR YOU'LL BE HIT

TIME IS RUTHLESS
TRULY A GHOST
LET IT SERVE YOU
MAKE THE MOST

ITS A REVOLVING DOOR
EASILY TRAPPED IN
WHAT WAS AN ERROR
BECOMES A CYCLE OF SIN

AREN'T WE WORTH MORE
THEN JOB SECURITY?
WE'RE WORTH WHAT WE BELIEVE
ALWAYS WILL BE

THINK ABOUT IT, BRING ABOUT IT
STAY POSITIVE
DON'T LET THESE WALLS CRUSH
CONTINUE TO LIVE

TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY
IN WORTHY PURSUITS
FULL OF POTENTIAL
WE CAN WEAR MANY SUITS

AND EXCELL IN LIFE
THOUGH THE PAST DOES HAUNT
OR LOOK BACK IN LIFE
HAVING LIVED FOR NAUGHT

THE CHOICE IS OURS
FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE ROCK
TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK
SAYS THE CLOCK...

"STORY TO TELL"

BY: TYLER HAMILTON

SIT BACK * RELAX
I HAVE A STORY TO TELL
CLOSE YOUR EYES, VISUALIZE
FEEL, TASTE * SMELL
THE STREETS ARE GRIMY
OFTEN STAINED WITH BLOOD
ENVELOPED BY SMOKE
GUN POWDER * BUD
DIRTY NEEDLES * BLADES
AS HUSTLERS SLANG
THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEME
WAS TO HUSTLE * BANG
WHAT'S A YOUNGIN TO DO
IDOLIZING A DEMON
THE SOLE SURVIVOR
OF CURSED SEMEN
A SCREW UP, I GREW UP
LOCKED IN HELL
TO EAT. SOMETIMES I'D FISH
IN THE WISHING WELL
TRAPPED SINCE BIRTH, FUCKING CURSED
PROWLING A MAZE
SHOTS IN THE NECK, A FUCKING WRECK
LIVING IN A DAZE

YOUTH AUTHORITY RAISED
CONVICT CODE INSTILLED
HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO LIVE
WHEN ITS KILL OR BE KILLED?

THE MORALS OF SOCIETY
DON'T EXIST WITHIN
PURELY WARRIOR ETHICS
AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN

GRADUATED WITH HONORS
FIVE YEARS LOST

HIT THE STREETS TOO FAST
WITHOUT THOUGHT OF THE COST

A STICK UP KID

FRESH OUT & BROKE

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

AIN'T A MUTHA FUCKING JOKE

18 YEARS OLD

WITH A FUCKED ATTITUDE

CLUCKER SOLD ME A CANNON

IN CASE OF A FEUD

3 MONTH VACATION

SENT ME UP STATE

WHAT BEGAN AS 4

I TURNED INTO 8

TIME LINES A FINE LINE
WHEN YOU WASTE YOUR LIFE
PURSUING WORTHLESS SHIT
AND DWELLING IN STRIFE
INSTITUTIONALIZED MIND
HAS ME PONDERING FATE
WITH A HOPE & A PRAYER
THAT ITS NOT TOO LATE
THAT I CAN TURN IT AROUND
ESCAPE FROM HELL
I'LL OPEN MY EYES
WITH A NEW STORY TO TELL...

"DEAR LORD"

BY: TYLER HAMILTON

DEAR LORD, I'M DYING
FATHER HELP ME TO BREATHE
SLOWLY KILLING MYSELF
CAUSE I JUST WANT TO LEAVE

THIS LIFE BEHIND ME
LOCKED IN HELL
HELP ME STAND TALL
I'VE SLIPPED * FELL

GIVE ME STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
TO MAKE MAMA PROUD
LEND MY VOICE REASON
A SILVER LINED CLOUD

FROM THE MESS OF IT ALL
USE ME HOW YOU MAY
BUT FATHER PLEASE
GIVE ME PEACE SOME DAY...