My Memoir

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1) INTRODUCTION

Hard Love

- 3) REALITY SETS IN
- 10) HIGHER POWER  $\iota$
- 14) MODERN DAY SLAVERY ?
- 18) WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THESE GATES 4
- 22) FAMILY TIES 5
- 26) WHO'S COMING (
- 29) FEELINGS 7
- 34) CLOSING THOUGHTS ∂
- 37) DEDICATION

BY
TRAMON JACKSON

### INTRODUCTION

WE ARE MOSTLY UNNOTICED BY SOME UNTIL
OTHER'S NOTICE WHAT THE UNNOTICED HAS
THE CHANGE TO NOTICE

### HARD LOVE

#### INTRODUCTION

How much of prison do you know?

Not just regular prison, but federal prison today?

There seems to be a misconception of how it really is in federal prisons. Before like ten years ago the feds were locking up people with money or/and who had a title that went with a name. Before, the rumors of federal inmates having sex with staff: were true. Before an inmate didn't have to worry about his next meal because all of the meals were worth going to.

And lastly the inmates who were working, they were making enough money to save and still be able to send a little something home to do what they could. But on top of that there was unity.

They may not love each other but they respected each other. Families were stronger, prison life wasn't so hard, and if you help yourself then someone would help you.

If you didn't know any better you'd think this life I'm talking about was more of a seminar than a prison.

Well times have changed and I don't see things getting any better. In my memoir I am going to open the eyes of those that are curious about prison. I am going to share my belief on why the system is like it is. I'm going to prove that in my opinion the department of corrections is a phony title. (I left the department of corrections in small letter because I feel this is my story and I'm speaking on my own terms.)

I am going to describe on a couple of key chapters. I'm speaking out because when you see movies, you're watching a perfect movie which is giving

TRAMON JACKION

you a two hour description of prison which has been edited. I'm not about telling on the game, I'm about improving life.

For a man to do time, that's saying a lot. Think about it. Whether you're right or wrong about serving time you are surrounded by at least hundreds of men who all have different personalities. So by you having your own personality you have to sort out the personalities that you're not feeling. Keep in mind that men really don't want to be in prison, so for him to find a friend that's like defeating the purpose. Especially if he's fighting his case and praying to be home as soon as the judge over turns his sentence.

But now that's it's  $\frac{2}{20/3}$  we are in a whole new era.

If you are to come into these walls you will meet the unexpected. Have you met or know someone that knows it all in a lying way? There are tons of liars here. Some stories are so good, that if you didn't know better the spaceship they're telling you they own, you'd think he was about to pull out the picture of him along with his spacecraft. You maybe thinking, "just stay away from that type of liar", but now that it's the liars, snakes, no good, and frienemy'es are hiding between the loyal ones.

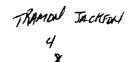
Yes, it's sad and so true!

It's like the evil ones are doing their best to become their own hero.

I'm to the point that you can say whatever you a want, but it's up to me if I want to believe your (tale) story.

I thank you for taking the time to read what I feel, may my story give you some insight on people that really need that second chance than those that are paying for that second chance.

If any topic offends you, you have my apology if you can forgive me.



# REALITY SETS IN

IS IT NOW OR LATER OR NOW OR NEVER

TRAMON TACKSON

#### REALITY SETS IN

No matter if your guilty or not once that judge or jury says "guilty", you will come to prison. You may not do all that time the judge gave you, but you will come to prison.

Because I know more wrong than righteous are in prison this is where I'll start.

Once you take the time the judge gave you and you are shipped to the prison to complete your remainder of time sleeping all day like you done at the detention center, that's out of the question buddy.

In fact by now I'm sure you'll see no rapper T.I or Micheal Vick, those with fame to their name. But what you'll see is little James who use to go to the store for grandma. Yeah little James is at yougest twenty-one in a federal prison. What is his crime? Possession of a fire arm or conspiracy.

That is the average that a prison may see in prisons taday. Crimes that over ten years ago they would have had probation or at worst state time to do.

How can that happened?

For me I had a gun charge, the state was willing to sentence me to a term to 3-5 years for the charge. With no time to take the plea the federal government took my case and instead of the 3-5 years it went up to 15 to life. And they were for real.

One day at a legal visit, I asked my lawyer how come the feds offer me so much time when the state was probable going to lower the 3-5 to probation? His response was, "it's different Mr. Jackson".

With no respect for my prison director, I mean public defender I blurted out some words that was more in line with crap.

MAMON JACKSON

If you been to the detention center in Miami visiting room you could see the state court so it couldn't have much of a difference (to me).

Point is because they can't catch or arrest felons who are doing federal crimes, they lowered the bar on who to lock up. How many people do you know that are doing time for drug charge and when they were arrested no dope was on them?

In case some don't know anyone I'll answer: Slim to none! I have several friends today and people I met that had no drugs but in their indictment they had a drug amount. You'd think they were arrested with the dope on the spot. Not saying who is right or who is wrong. And another thing, the same ones that have these drug charges, they're the same ones who either sold drugs on a small petty level or knew someone and in since "they" couldn't get them they got who they could.

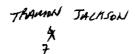
This is reality!

I'm in reality. When I caught my gun charge the city of Miami, they stole some of my bullets! It's like you can believe what you want but the truth will always be the same.

Just because I'm hitting on reality facts doesn't mean everyone was done wrong.

In the beginning of fighting my charge I was preparing for trial so I had to find my witnesses. When one witness was on the run from the cops the other had a minor record therefore she couldn't be used. What didn't make sense was that by her having a record the courts wouldn't trust her, but if I wanted to snitch on another inmate on some information then they'll let me.

That's crazy, to me if it can help them win a case it's good, if not it's no good. What really opened my eyes was the truth will set you free. By



me knowing that was my gun was why I took my time, although some bullets were stolen. So who is right, who is wrong?

Now that the federal bar has been lowered so that young active adults are the prime suspects, not everyone is ready to deal with change. At Coleman medium prison in Coleman, Florida what do you think you're going to see? It's not pretty!

I see young black men that are still thinking negative. I see men walk around with their pants hanging off. I hear men talk about my ladies, queens and daughters like their hoes, slut or bitches. I hear them say that when they get out they got plans to rob.

Is it me, or crime for them is what they live to do.

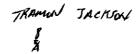
Not everyone is ready for a fresh start.

In a positive light, I feel "they" are mad because the system has erased them from life, so their angry. Yes, I'm mad too, because I was done wrong too.

In my arrest in 2002 they lied about how the gun was found then they stole my money, and lied about how I said some things that could have hurt my chances of winning if I were to proceed with trial. If the city of Miami police would have been honest on how the whole arrest went down and where the gun really was found I would not have been in no fed, state, or county jail or prison. It took me some years to get to where my mind is at now, but I've done it.

what about the guys that haven't opened their eyes?

A couple of years ago at this prison, we had a positive Warden who believed in second changes. What he did was, allowed "us" to have numerous programs to help better ourselves. The Warden allowed a ton of people from



the outside world to talk to us. We had local radio D.J's come to speak to us. We had church groups come to share the gospel and hear Coleman choir sing. We even had a couple of rappers come in this prison and give a performance. Also had a hip-hop summit that went great. The reality then was great. We had officers along with a Warden that did what they could if it can turn us to be better men than we were before. With programs such as: "Boy to Men, Father's Behind Bars, Making Peace With Your Past and C.O.M.E., etc, on top of that we preformed plays that went great.

When Warder was here he told us not to get use to the compound being this way. Not taking his message to heed, things change. A new Warden came and stopped all of the programs, therefore causing some to go back to negative.

Why would they take programs away that work?

Good question, when dealing with reality, not everyone agrees with the other one. When they took away the programs at a quick rate, some were saying education might be gone next.

Why is someone making it hard for us to do time, I would guess to keep their job. If they were to continue those programs to help us change our old ways what good will they be if the programs worked and we changed! For one we as in new and improved we could do for our kids therefore stopping the system from allowing our kids to grow up without fathers doing their job.

If the prison system were to decrease because "we" wasn't coming to prison like they expected, why would they continue to hire officers which would then change to layoffs.

So now that the new staff have noticed that entertainment was changing us they pulled the plug on that and now several months later we have a new compound.

\*\*RAPPON TACKSON\*\*

Reality is funny.

When an average person comes to prison, why is he always having a frown on his face? Give or take by the end of the week that frown is either a smirk or a tight-lip person, nodding his head at people that speak.

Reality today is that the young man you know is content or bitter. The content part is that like most federal inmates who haven't been to a penitentiary, what he sees he does. Content, like if he's in line for chow and he sees a "buddy" he'll skip the whole line just to be with his buddy. My question is how can you be content with yourself after skipping a line of people who is in line for the same thing: food?

Now if that would have been at a penitentiary when he skipped that line he would have been stuck with a "shank" knife.

Reality today, the inmates that cook for the compound, when they feed you they most of time shake the spoon. Translation, if they're serving beef fried rice, with the big spoon he'll forget to fill the spoon.

Today's times are crazy, one day at lunch an inmate put some food on my tray and then looked at my face and asked if I was good, his buddy behind the line laughed and said, "hell naw" none of them people are, you got to feed the people not shake the spoon,. Another time an inmate asked for more and the inmate serving the food backed up from serving pointing to the officer. That's crazy, how can a person help throw food away than feed the inmates. They're been some fights or what-nots but the craziness is still going on.

When I use to be a line server the officer told me over and over not to put too much on the inmates trays. Out of nowhere the officer asked me, "what you scared of them"? Laughing that joke off I told him I stay with these inmates". And since he was considered a cool C.O. I told him, "you act like you paying for this food".

TRAMON JACKSON

Too bad that everyone that's a line server don't feel like I do. The problems today in the kitchen is that they're too busy trying to sell the food that's suppose to be free! What a joke!

Here's another reality check myth: men sleeping with men or being tampered with. You is not about to come to prison and see "Tom" sleeping with "John". Yes there are men who prefer men, but not like you'll think. That's to eaches own!

Now what you will see and hear is two men making gay jokes and **ganes**Oh and did I mention all day! The first time I heard one man tell someone to,
"let me stick my finger in your a##". By now I have heard worse than that.

Yeah, that is what time it is in prison today. Please don't think your friend don't play them games because four out six do be on that joke time. I will admit that I'm guilty of laughing at the clown. As long as they know where to end the joke than do what you will.

How sad it is today. Moving on to another reality check.

When I first came to federal prison I seen some of the most beautiful women ever! What I later learned is that some loved what they saw, and trusting their judgement they put their careers on the line and done or tried a favor or two just to solve or try their curiosity. Some quit on their own and the rest learned the hard way.

What happened which took on a domino effect: Snitching, one told his buddy about what was going on and the friend told someone which led to firing and transfers. The women I'm sure is probably still mad at themselves. But to me they weren't stupid or nothing. She fell in love with what she thought was real. Nobodies perfect!

TRANSON JACKSON

In fact at one unknown prison three of us was talking to a female C.O. who was cool. When she asked us what is there to do when someone goes to the (box) confinement. Cause if you go the box you're in there all day wearing only a tee-shirt, boxers, socks, and slides. Me liking the officer I told her, "I know me, I'll read, write, and give myself some quality time". The way her face smirked up the first thing her eyes did was try and guess what I was packing. The way the fellas agreed with me, all she said was, "hump".

Although I felt like if I was one on one I could have gotten somewhere I left it alone because to me I felt like that could've been a trap.

But now from the couple of prisons I been to and realized how often a woman falls for one of us, the same mistake always ended up biting everyone in the butt: "Snitches"!

Now, today the female C.O's don't even spend that much time in trying to conversate, and for good measure too. I seen some higher up officers walk a female off the compound because she was caught doing favors. The other females whose name was rumored to look out, you don't even see them any more. It's sad that one man will tell. Not justifying or nothing but if you don't like what you hear or see then mind your own business.

And a lot of guys now wonder why the females today are so mean and rude to the compound. I understand! Who can you trust?

The snitching is so bad that if you tell what you know they'll give you room to gather evidence. I heard that the Lt's will give you confiscated items as a way of thanks. It's sad, but so true, don't be surprise if your love one is the snitch. I'm just telling what I know. It's not hard to pin-point certain ones, you actions will tell it all.

TRAMON JACKSON

### HIGHER POWER

HEAVEN OR HELL
WHY CHOOSE WHEN THE TRUTH
IS ALREADY IN YOU

#### HIGHER POWER

Jail house religion begins when a person gets incarcerated. He or she finds a religion to join, it can be for all kinds of reasons. I've seen and heard from individuals that they became this or that, because of their homie, security, or just to be part of something. See the problem comes in at when a person so call themselves serving God while their incarcerated preaching to people in the inside and the outside. So when it's time for release some throw in the Bible, Koran, incents at the door before they hit the streets. Some do it after a minute of being home. So that's when people go to hollering that you had that jail house religion. That's the first thing a person says to you or about you when you go to talking about whatever God you're serving. Most I seen was once Christians or grew up in a Christian back ground, get here and convert over to muslem, Jehovah witness. For me the opposite I used to be a Jehovah witness being raised in that by my mother, but the true living God drew me and his glorious light of the gospel of Jesus Christ open my eyes. I serve Jesus Christ that's my God. You have a lot of chain gain scholars saying and thinking that he's not God. When you blinded and stuck on religion then you're not able to accept the truth. I believe and suggest that a person should search, study and know the history of what they believe in. I've realized that people be in religions better yet cults, not knowing who they are serving. In the Holy Bible, God word says in 2 Timothy 2:15, study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. So that let's me know if me or who ever doesn't study how can you divide the word of truth. And the ones who's not spiritual meaning, born again, how can you know God, better thing to

TRAMON TACKSON

say is that you know of God, you heard about him. The blind is leading the blind in prison and on the streets. That's just the way it is until God draws them and they confess and accept Jesus Christ as they Lord and savior. Take it how you want, either you accept or reject, meaning heaven or hell. God don't lie, can't lie. Know check it to avoid all that jail house religion crap while you are incarcerated or when you jump. Gain a relationship with Jesus, be obedient to his words. If you follow God whole heartily you want have to worry about jail house religion being placed on you. Be a man to God and yourself stay firm, knowing that the devil is a liar. Take your position find your identity, my token to whoever start with Jesus.

Before prison(s), God was like a saying if you follow. No I didn't go to church nor have I thought about it. Truthfully I sold drugs next to a church. I was in an essence blind, deaf, and crazy in how I had no desire to respect God. I was blind, to busy chasing a dollar. I will admit just before coming to the feds I started reading my Bible at home.

I say that cause in here people are quick to judge one another with slick sayings. Although you don't owe no man no explanation, with a pure heart I stated facts. That me, yes I read my Holy Bible when I was free!

In prisons, jails, and institutions that is mostly where a person can' define the word religion, how do you study: 'first find what interests you then learn slow. Like how long have the (preference) been around. Find verses, chapters, and key words that you have in common. The last thing you should do is do it cause that's where the "crowd" is at study, observe, and do what feels right.

A lot of people where they go wrong is that when they're doing time they'll play God, but when they go home they leave God in the cell and go back

THAMON JACKSON

to the old ways. I see it too much. I was one of them. I played God so well that I didn't realize my time was up, so when I learned I was on my way home the Bible got lost in my locker, prayers became short and the foul language ended back up on my tongue. Whose to blame? Who was I kidding? Why did the mask come off?

The answer is self, even now as I learn from my mistakes I know it's tough to fight the good fight. But now I be real. Someone recently asked me what was my religion preference. I told him, "a firm believer in God". I have no use to use those of titles, I know who I pray to, and who my savior is, I, me. I call upon the name Jesus Christ for everything. He may not give me what I want, but he gives me everything he wants me to have.

What's crazy is that one time a brother told me not to let the devil get a hold of me. He told me because I don't attend the Sunday service, I don't go because that is the only day they want to shake my hand. No disrespect but you can shake my hand everyday.

I feel that we as the dominated ones, we have to be careful on how you tell someone something, especially when you use the precious name of God. I hear people, all people use their "title" to ask is that what Allah tells you to say"? that's crazy, same thing about Christian too. Don't use title to argue on God!

How can you bring me to your service if you're no different from them?

It's the blind leading the blind. We all are bound to sin, that's #1, but no way should anyone sin when they have the chance to avoid sin.

That's why I don't get caught up in that religion. A good brother that comes to the prison often, he refuses to use the word religion instead he teaches us the meaning of relationship. Now that where the mix up comes in at.

TRAMON JACKSON

If everyone had a relationship with God, you wouldn't have to stand out and recruit those that don't know, instead let your light shine, those that see your light, if they like what they see they will come. In Mattew 5 verses 14-16 is what my relationship is like.

If only I can train my soul to seek him more often. I acknowledge God, but if I allow him to be my pilot then will I know that I am ready to become an Apostle. My whole point of this chapter is to know who God is, if you chose to believe in God then do it to know what your purpose is for. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge".

Do you know what belief your "friend" is learning?

Let's not get caught up in who's the messenger. Does it matter if such and such brings the message? It shouldn't, in life there is good and there is bad, take what's good and leave the bad. He who is without sin, cast the first stone .

# MODERN DAY SLAVERY

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN
IN THE STRUGGLE?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME
TO CHANGE.....?

#### MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Majority of federal inmates are slaves point blank!

The pay, it sucks while you're working a little less than eight hours, the pay is nickels on the dollar a month. How can a person work in the kitchen for 23 days a month making only like \$37.00 a month. When in the real world that same job is paying bi-weekly. On average out of that same month he/she is liable to earn more, than 7-9 hundred a month.

Something is better than nothing, but slavery is slavery. If the United States people in charge were to think straight and ask those inmates on which is better, more than 68% would take extra gain time than the nickels on the dollar a month. The 28% who would take the money over the gain time are either doing a short sentence or are one of the fortunate ones making a decent amount where they could save. (good luck).

In federal prisons there's a building called unicor. In unicor a person could earn as much as two hundred and something a month. And if there was work for overtime, then that is time and a half. Some places even have piece rate where you would get paid as much as you work on your piece of whatever work you were doing. It was easy to stock your locker with one or two months of pay. By that third month an average person would be able to save majority of that check. So after all that you used you would just have to replace the items that were used.

Easy simple, my cell mate even taught me to double up on the things I use most like washing powder, hygiene, snacks, my meats. "That way you could afford to miss a week up to a month without going back to the store".

TRAMON SALKSON

That was then, this is now, it's certainly not that way now. Our people who are locked up they are in need of help. The officer whose in charge, how do you think he feels, to him/her they're still making them dollars with expectations that we should work too.

Helloo, in these times a guy would be lucky to even earn enough to support himself. Whoever, thought federal inmates have money, sorry to disappoint you but that is not true.

Can you imagine working 3 hours every other day only to see at the end of the month you can't even afford to take care of yourself? "They" say it's that way because of the economy, so why don't they know that certain unicor's are making billions of dollars off the product that unicor makes? Or better yet, why are inmates being paid so poorly, but yet the person in charge demands that the inmates work harder if they want their job.

What really hurts is that our own inmates are no better than "the man" that keeps their foot on our backs. You have grown men that will tell, snitch, or rat on their own co-worker just to get brownie points from the C.O. Some inmates are ones that forget who they are.

Why don't no one do something to the (snitches), it's called fear.

Fear that they might loose their job. Mind you they're only working three hours every other day. So whose the pimp?

The smartest thing I've heard the pimp tell the workers, "don't worry things will pick up later, just keep working and try not to cause any damage to the product". Several months later, things are still the same.

If you can work someone for a little of nothing and still make enough to see profit then hey do your thing. Especially, if they know the truth.

PRAMON JACKON 20 15 My opinion is that if today's happenings were to have occurred say like ten years ago then you would've heard such and such got beat up for telling, or point blank the teller wouldn't have been telling on his own coworker.

The key question is why do these grown men tell?

Well for one the officer allows the inmate to feel superior then he really is. Then also at the same time most guys coming to prison they can't fight. Yeah they know how to pull a gun or jump you, but most of the time if it were a fight it'll be over sooner than it started. Don't get me wrong guys know how to fight, but when parole, gain time, or a loss of job, all of that comes to mind when a person is about fight.

Out of the  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years I been down I've seen less than twenty fist fights and more than 50 arguments among each other.

Put it like this if you came to prison and you know you're money isn't up to part, would you jeopardize your means of support to someone that can't fight. Me personally I plea the 5th cause sometimes words can and will come back to you.

No matter what the fight is over the boss man will have someone lined up next for the job you just lost.

Do you know that slavery and snitching is in so much that most people are in denial about it? Yeah, some inmates who are buddy, buddy with the police are so blind that they don't see their wrong.

One time two people had a fight, but they didn't get caught by the police, so you would think they were safe!

Wrong!

TRAMON JACKSON
21
\$6

By that next day the counselor had so many snitching sheets that he was forced to address the matter. Long story, short when the guys had fought, they were on camera and the tape was used against the guys, thanks to the gentlemen that dropped notes on the fighters. Prison has no rules no more. But yet they call themselves men.

What kind of error are we living in? It's not just at (this) prison(s) it's everywhere.

It's already bad F.B.O.P are working inmates like a slave. All that's missing are chains and shot guns.

On a reality check, one way or another somewhere down the line a person in the system, he has to feel the effect of someone close to him IS being treated like a slave!!!

What will it take to be treated like a human being. Yes 'we' did a crime and have to be punish, but if you work a man then pay him. If you're not going to pay him then don't work him.

How would you feel if you made a mistake and you were handed over to someone that worked you like nothing?

Is prison to the up dated version of slavery? If so then maybe it's time to invest in labor, it ain't like (they) ain't doing it already.

Or how about making your voice heard! Cause like now with the way the officers and foremen are if something bad was to happen, I know from the way (they) treated us I wouldn't loose a minute sleep nor would I shed a tear. To me when you do dirt you get dirt. That's why slaving over someone and you like doing it, be-care-ful because the world is round. As long as a person does what they do, then how can they get mad?

TRAMON JACKSON

# WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THESE GATES

NEVER BE LESS THAN
YOU CHOOSE TO BE
NO MATTER WHERE YOU'RE AT

TRAMON JACKSON
23

### WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THESE GATES

Have you ever heard that prison is like considered a college? What about the title of corrections? And then you even hear how some inmates still act the same like nothing changed but the location?

The difference is the person! No matter how you view these topics it is nothing like I'm writing. You will see it all, unfortunately I see mostly silly things. These days you are liable to see tow or more grown men play gay games and jokes. Yeah, you may be thinking, naw not your boy so an so. News flash, it's everywhere and it is going on. The good thing is that from what I see they're only joking, and it is funny.

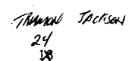
Can you imagine seeing two grown men making comments that are too strong for me to write. Or see someone give him a wedge? Ashamed of myself, I do laugh, if you don't see it or hear it, you can't fathom what's going on. (You can't say what you don't see).

Don't think you're too hard not to laugh, believe me I know it's sad, but sometimes you hear the craziest things.

No I am nowhere near that type of stuff. I am happily married. Then why do I laugh at that stuff? I laugh cause it's funny and I'm laughing at them. If they were to see themselves what would they say?

What goes on behind these gates? Some of everything. What I now see is that if you got those that know it all, then 7 out 10 they have no education yet. Yeah! But the way they talk you would think they got degrees. How smart is that?

If you have never been in jail before, the way you hear about so an so how do you think you would do your time?



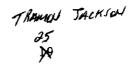
As bad as the new administration are, you're really not getting much of a choice.

Now you're lucky if the education programs will be here tomorrow. Basically all you have is either going to the rec yard to play sports or to workout. That or being in the unit full of inmates ready to watch T.V. You don't want to know the things that goes on over those T.V.'s on what they would watch. It ain't pretty!

It's sad but hey what other way is there to look at it.

With the way this chapter is described, how do you think the inmates feel. Some can care less, and other's are stuck between a rock and a wall. I'm laying this out because times have changed. We need help and watching B.E.T and playing cards is not the answer. I have nothing against B.E.T. I still glance at it, but not to the point of someone second guessing if I'll watch it tomorrow though. Why I don't get caught up in it is cause for me, I get jealous because of the image I see: Pretty girls, lots of money, and top notch respect. Then reality kicks in, it's only a video. Although most people won't admit it, most are in here because of the image they see on video's.

You see a cute female that's dressed up looking good. What are the odds she'll pick you for you. Before you get to know a person you see a person. One time when I was free I went to the corner store to grab some items, wearing my gold chain, name brand clothes and having gold teeth, a female came in the store. At first I didn't care cause I was in a hurry, the dude behind the counter he nodded his head telling me to speak to her. When I nodded no, my partner came in banging his head to a C.D player, the dude behind the counter said he's crazy.



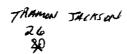
With the female behind me I lied and said, "naw, my buddy is listening to my C.D, we're on our way back to the studio so I can..." the expression on the lady face was shock, but to me that was because what she seen. A nice looking male, nice clothes, clean and he had money all over him. It didn't help matters either when I pulled out a wad of cash.

I was no different from a rapper in a video. We are living a life that we see still to this day. And that is what I don't want to be apart of anymore. That is why I don't get caught up in the latest fashion. For one I'm in jail, plus why would I want to dwell on something that is brain washing. If I say what (he) say, can I have what he have?

Don't get me wrong I love the women and all, but before I was a small time drug dealer so I had "friends" on the side, but when I got my sentence all of my "friends" left me. Who were the ones that sent me mail? Not them instead I had two women whom I love even more than I know. One is Shaniece who is my God sister, and Adraine High. They came to me without me knowing. And at my lowest points, as I was living a life that was an illusion I had no idea what they were doing, but yet they wrote me constantly, and for that I say thank you, and love.

May God bless Adriane High and her friends, family and those that mattered. Every letter she wrote she always had something to say and some unique ways of writing. She was quick to say, "to God be the glory and the devil is a liar", oh how true are those words. We miss Ms. High, since God needed you more than "we" did, I'm sure you are still one unique Angel. Until then.

With Adriance and Shaniece they encouraged me to benefit with doing my time. You guys should be happy and proud.



Because of them I am a little more conscience of what I'm doing and what I watch. If only I can pull away from the card games. In here it's really what a person puts their mind too. One thing for certain you will hear people say a good one. Me I don't care what you say, what can you do that matter.

Since then I was blessed to find a special woman who came form a dream and now she's a reality, Shelly, as much as I tell you what goes on, just know that with the letters and action we will over come the struggle. And know that you came to me when I thought, "who will come to me"? I'm blessed to know you did.

Here's another quote that's used in prison: The closes way to freedom is the law library. So why is the rec yard so full of people playing sports than doing their law work? Easy! most guys would rather play sports and pay someone to do their law work. Now can a man fight your battle if you won't fight your own?

Just curious, after all this, this is what goes on behind these gates.

PRAMON JACKSON
27
24

# FAMILY TIES

IS BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER
OR IS LOVE THE THICKEST NO
MATTER THE ELEMENT

### FAMILY TIES

When you come to prison you not only doing time, but your family as well. Remember when after 10 p.m you and the fellas would go out? Even if it was you and your "friend". That there is not only over, but so is getting that "good talk time" after 10 p.m.

For one your curfew is 9:45 seven days a week! Then if your family is still in your corner, now you have to give them a time when you're going to call. Fifteen minutes is all you're going to get too. And to make that even more messed up, each person is allowed 300 minutes a month. That's it!

As you do time you learn that the homies will break bread or look out as some people call it, but for how long. At first I know the conversation is at it's best. You might even hear these words, "just call I got you. Or every month I put such and such in your account". Believe me at one point or another that friend might lose the phone, therefore causing you to rely on family to find your friend. So where do you think that'll lead too?

Even your family is going to break the news, "I'm broke, or I just paid my bills! Prison will make your family feel like they're doing time as well. How many times have you heard, "I'm messed up, with the first two minutes of your phone call? I know it goes both ways, to the felon locked up on down to the person who pushed 5 to accept your call.

Can a person count on family?

Like every story it's two sides to a story. Some people don't deal with their family. Whether it's over the relationship wit a spouse or just bad blood, somewhere down the line the family is feeling the pain.

THAMON JACKSON 29 32 Mom and brother are alright with you, but your sister is the I told you so type, believe mom is telling your sister about you in hopes to get you two on the same level.

Let's not talk on how after awhile you call home and your "friend", friend answers the phone. It does happen, are you content if you were put in that situation.

One dude called his baby mom for christmas to wish his little girl merry christmas. When he asked her is she riding her bike that he paid for, she said, "no daddy", someone have to put it together. Daddy not liking that, he got his baby moma on the phone right then and there, "Trina, is your boyfriend there now"? He asked. When he got on the phone daddy went off on him because if, "you're dating Trina and you know my daughter is there too, the least you could do is put her bike together".

By him not being there that cause his family to feel the pain. I don't care if you had one to a million friends and family members the pain is there. You may be one of the ones where your family is holding up well. I take my hat off to you. But for me personally prison opened my eyes as well as caused a whole lot of pain. Out of sight, out of mind is no truer than one plus one is two.

You told your lady to come see you Saturday morning, but 10 a.m you blowing her phone up wondering why she's not here yet. When reality she probably went out last night and over slept. Or maybe she came but the prison didn't allow her to come in due to their reason of not admitting her to see you. And if that's the case you won't know until she tells you.

It can also be, some women do not want to come to no jail to see "us" because of the pain of knowing that when they leave you won't go with her. Family ties!

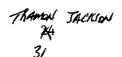
TRAMON JACKSON 30 28 You have some families that mean well but will lie to you over the phone. Why do they lie? Well, that's on them, it can be any reason until they tell you. They mean no harm it just came that way. A friend told his sister to return the form. A couple of days later in the mail he get's the form when the form was suppose to go to the address on the form. But what made the pain come to the light was the post-date. She said she been sent the form back when in reality she just done it.

Not only did she lie about sending it off, but she never read the instructions on where to send it to properly.

There are so many struggles when family and time do not mix. One person has done so much time that he wish to never see his family anymore. He says he took care of them when he was free, now that he can't give them a handout they got in the wind and blew away.

How about the homies you left in the street? Why isn't "Black" sending that money like he is suppose too? A person should never have to ask someone locked up if they need money. If you have the money to send, then send it!!!

A friend was teaching me something, I asked why can't my buddy do for me. He taught me that everyone is not meant to be a leader. The way it was said is what got me, "not everyone is meant to be a leader". And now I know and believe. In here there's a saying: out of sight, out of mind. If you want to argue that theme then get in contact with someone locked up and let them know that you remember them. You'll be surprise on who are the ones to leave you as you do your time. Then wait long enough, the ones you thought you forgot, wait till one day at mail call and they write you out of the blue. It happens all the time.



The thing is, the one that came to you when you were down. What are you going to do if released and you run into that lost friend. You all know what I'm talking about.

Family ties!

How many of you left that women to fight for herself? Now she has to be mom, daddy, accountant, secretary, lover, friend, Dr. for when your child gets hurt? Family ties are serious.

Some things can't be helped. You got some doing time cause "Sam" snitched on you. Cool, the police didn't get you Sam did.

Well think of it this way, if you were living right you and Sam wouldn't have time for business. Don't be in denial. Which is more important, living for your family or living with your family.

Remeber this if you're with you son, then your a father.

If you with your mom, then you're her son.

If you're with your wife then you're the husband.

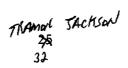
If you're with your friend then you're the friend.

If you're with wife and child, then you all are family.

Never forget the part you play. Family ties are serious.

I can only hope until the day comes when my whole family and me can be on the same page. Don't tell me show me. At the same time we all have to look at self cause self isn't always right. If self is right then where is the wrong?

All I can suggest is to get family back to where they belonged and that is love and in truth.



# WHO'S COMING

WHICH IS MORE POWERFUL
THEIR WISH TO COME OR
THEIR DEED TO COME OR .....

### WHO'S COMING

Have the visit's stopped already? Don't tell me as the phone rings you can imagine what excuse they're gonna use. Are they going to say their sick, car broke, or put it on the child?

Oh please don't let your baby moms be the one to use the child against you. Are you hearing, "why are you calling so much, when you was home I asked you over and over to watch your son, but you were always busy. Don't be calling now all of a sudden worried about my son now, you should have thought about that as you did what you wanted to do".

Great, now she's giving you a piece of her mind. Now all of the questions are going to come your way: "who was that female that answered your phone, my friend told me she seen you with that girl you know I can't stand why did you hurt me like that"?

One thing about love, jails, and children, the word visit is going to pop up. They know you're not coming home, so now it's more of a guessing game as to who will be the first and last to come and see you.

How many babymother's are out there that got back or tried to stay with the baby father while he was in prison?

Be honest!

Was it hard before when the both of you were face to face. On both sides it was like war of the words. Ladies you know then that you know you knew your man's weakness but yet it is up to that man to be strong. Look at what we do we'll give you a life where worry was the last thing on the plate. Not on purpose or an excuse but we all fall. Don't want for him to end up in prison to bring out your 20/20.

TRAMON JACKSON 296 34 For a woman to wait until he's not in position to say her say, then what does that really say.

Ladies I know how some men can, will and will do to hurt you. Even today their are men in here who still doesn't see women unless it's a sex thing. One time at chow the fellas was speaking on how their son was caught with another young child. Mind the boy and girl were under 14, but to the fellas it was cool because the son was the man.

Making myself part of the conversation I asked, "so what do you do if your daughter is 14 and she was with another young boy"? The quietness told me what I knew, it's not okay. One dude was honest when he said he'll do everything in his power to make his daughter wait until.

So why is it cool for boys to do what they want when girls/ladies have to wait?

I call it stupid!

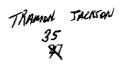
I'm a man, me I now use the phrase I'm married, I just don't know who my wife is yet. To some men playing games is not in the equation.

Too bad not all men grow up and they wonder why they don't have visits.

Have you ever heard that if you were nice to people before you came to prison they will be nice to you when in need?

That's not true!

No matter how you treat people when the time comes, then will you see the results. Case in point, he was good to people, he was even good hearted to most, but when the time came for the friends to hold him down no one was there. Family they came close, but just like time it came and left like they done. With no bad thoughts his only thought was, "you can't get mad at what



you know". Too bad it took him all of the time he'd done to still love where in others they'd see bitterness or hate. If only my boy can get visits from all of those that he'd done for.

Visits, are something that a man looks for even if he doesn't want to admit it. We want to see everyone from that girl, to friends, on down to family. And especially the kids.

Ladies if you know he wants to see his kids allow him that pleasure. Yes I am sure "Black" was mean rude and stuck on himself, but still why allow your hatred to determine if he could see his child. For real you don't even have to go when your child goes to see his father, you can send someone you trust. Tell your child the truth, don't lie, tell'em that mommy and daddy are having problems but that the both of you love him/her. Let it be known that they visit daddy and that if they need help, you'll help them write a letter.

Ladies you may be doing your best to make him suffer, but I will admit this, once you show you have no hard feelings towards him, and in fact three or four times a month you tell the child to write daddy, that will hurt him. For once he thought he was better off without you, but now things aren't as he thought.

The true pain killer for him is when you play mommy and he plays daddy, the second he tries to make it up to you, you follow your heart. If you know he is not the one you want to spend the rest of your life with, then break his heart and make it known that you are only in his life for the sake of the child.

Know what you are doing because what goes around does comes right back around again. Don't let the tide roll by twice....

MAMION JALKEN

# FEELINGS

# INSPIRATION OR JEALOUSY WHICH ONE DO YOU FEEL? NOW WHICH ONE DO YOU PRACTICE

### **FEELINGS**

I decided to do an extra chapter on feelings. I want to speak on feelings because one way or another each person is dealing with their feelings. How do you control your feelings when faced with situations that'll make you act out of character?

In Dr. Martin L. King book, I read something that spoke on never allow any man to pull you down so far as to hate him. The first time a brother read that to me it stuck.

The question is, do I or even you live by that sentence? That there depends on how well we can handle our feelings.

While we all know that none is perfect, I too struggle with my feelings when dealing with people. A co-worker of mine brought to my attention that lately I've been negative when I speak. Not in mood for talking especially to my co-workers who I can live without I told him that I'm not always negative. In fact when I'm quiet I'm good. Not taking the hint I said in plain english that if you don't ask me no question I can't display a negative attitude.

That was then, this is now. Now me and that same co-worker we're alright because we see good in each other. Although we're on good terms now, my feelings really hasn't changed. The best that anyone can ever receive from me is respect. Respect because that is something I continually give, even to those I have no feelings for, for they are neither dead or alive.

Being in prison you have so many personalities to deal with that you'd have to be crazy to try and adapt to them. Now what I do suggest is for everyone to be who they're meant to be. Like I said earlier, everyone is not

going to like you, just like you are not going to like everyone. But how you handle your feelings could be the key to seeing better days.

What kind of feeling is someone showing if they're telling you something negative about so and so, but they have yet to tell that person? I mean you don't have to say, "Joe" I'm done dealing with you! Me I prefer the silent treatment. If know you're not feeling so and so why waste your time and fake like you're cool with them.

A foreman I use to work for, I could and can still careless about him for the way he handle his power over his detail. On more then two occasions we'd talked and to this day his no respect to me proves my feelings to him are still the same. One day I asked him what he has against me, his reply blew me, "I have nothing against you, it's just the way I am". He's a control freak, he likes to dictate things that we already know, don't move until he says type of stuff. That there and how he shows no respect for those with longevity is my reason for me all in my feelings.

So what can I do about it? Stay out of his way and do my job. Once you tell any individual what the problem is and nothing happens it'll be best if you separate. When feelings come to the surface there's really no way you can know the outcome if the feelings are real to you. By me reading, writing and learning I know if you take time to reflect on the good and bad I'm sure you'll see a way out.

ø '

Or better yet forgive them, some people are who they are pure and simple. Everyone can't be like you, where would the fun be! I remember one of my co-workers told me that not everyone likes me, my response was, "and that means what"? The way I said it was the key. Plus I already knew, by me or even you having to deal with "crazy" co-workers who does crazy things that

bothers you, by me [you] giving him the silent treatment he caught on. If he didn't understand he did afterward. By us being in prison, there's no telling when the foreman will search, by me having a couple of file cabinets people tend to store their things in there. Ask so and so to move it, he said it's alright in there, the police won't say nothing being a man and ready I told him to put it in his locker then. Don't you know we no longer speak. Talk about feelings.

I'll say my feelings towards him is crazy. In away I feel sorry for him because he lost his value and I have nothing against him, although I do prefer not saying nothing to him.

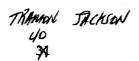
If you never been in prison or been in a similar situation how would you offer advise on these demonstrations I provided?

Keep in mind that at a young age and you're doing time because the system did what they could to insure that you'll have a lot of time to do.

Feelings on a positive note is something most don't recognize unless their either a real friend or if they know you have something they need. One time while listening to Johnny and Jyde on 106.7 fm on Orlando, my morning show. I was listening to where they were talking about why some people have frienemy which is called friend/enemy. The responses were shocking, but then again real. Some people have frienemies because of what that person can give or have to offer.

Is this the way you like to live? By cheating and getting a handout from someone you can live without.

How different are my feelings to now compared to over 6 years ago? I have grown! But then again have I? What I mean and seen is that the words and actions makes a somewhat difference depending on the where and when.



Let's say in the street, if there's a problem in the person I'm having a conflict with is the same individual I described earlier, then moving without thinking the hatred may cause me to do something that I feel would be correct.

But take that same scenario only place it in a prison setting. Although the feeling would still be the same, my location would play a huge part. 1) If the opponent is a pain, and chooses not to fight, then that there would mean he's a talker. How can you be so mad but you choose not to act on it right then and there. If you can be within close feet of them and nothing happens, is there really a problem.

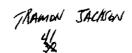
2) your location plays a part too. Even if you want to fight that person, you may end up in a worser situation later on. In prison if you fight and get caught on e may press the issue that he was assaulted and if the issue is fought hard enough you may loose some good time A.K.A. meaning the earliest you could come home will be pushed back.

Me personally if I have a fight none of that makes a difference. You disrespected me, I had/have to do what I felt like doing. There's a saying, "some people allow the moment to determine the future", how true are those words that many don't put into practice. You only live once and each of us does what the situation allows us to do. Meaning the system tells you if you have a problem and you can't handle it then to tell them.

Realistically, how many of you are going to tell them, "Tray is giving me problems and he might try to fight me"?

There are some who choose to do things that way, are you one of them?

Or are you one of those that resolve the situation by winning or loosing. You're going to fight not knowing the ending? That's what allowing the situation to determine the future is. If you fight and your opponent hits his head and dies what do you think your thoughts are going to be later?



Feelings is something we live with everyday. That girl we would like to know. How the criminal system feels they can do as they wish, living with your everyday life. Even family! How does your feelings go towards your family? I wish my family and me where better, but that's how the feeling is! We're alright in all, but after being the "black sheep" for so long even family and feelings play out in ways that is like life, which we have to continue to grow and live. The love is there, we all may see it, but is the proof there?

If it wasn't for me having to do my time I have no idea what I would have been like!

Sometimes one wish something could have been differently. Why wish that when none of us has a head start to life. When you find something you wish to change, then is the time to do it. Let's not allow our feelings or situations to determine our future if it's going to lead to regrets in the long run.

To my family, I love you and I pray we continue to get stronger as we continue to live and love life. Just know none of this would have been possible without you. One love to you all....

# CLOSING THOUGHT

WHY NOT LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN IN FRONT OF YOU FOR SO LONG

### CLOSING THOUGHTS

As I finished my mini memoir title **HARD LOVE**, I felt like I had to write from a today's stand point.

You see I have a 15 year sentence and times are hard but love is harder. Me, I don't see love, unity, or peace. Instead I see the opposite hate, "sore thumbs", and war all across the prison fields and mist of us inmates, we simply don't care. It's like it's alright, or as my favorite word: Content.

Times have changed. We meaning a lot of "us" when we grew up was poor, it's no reason why most of us are still poor. What? Are we content in being in the struggle?

It is so hard to take a stand on something right! In here I seen an officer tell an inmate to pick up little flowers from the grass and put them in a small trash bag. In any way, fashion, or form it's called humiliation. Why do they humiliate the inmates? Just to abuse their power.

The real question is why don't "he" or the inmate population do something? I wish I had an answer.

But that's how times are now. Seven years is approaching since I been in prison, I can not tell you how bless I am to see that I have not allowed this time to drive me crazy. Although, the one I thought would have stayed by my side I was wrong. She left, finally looking at my situation in two aspects I now see what went wrong. We never held conversations that could determine if we were meant for each other. Although I was good to her and she was good to me, in some way or another we weren't meant. Either the timing or our interest, whatever it was, it just wasn't meant to be.

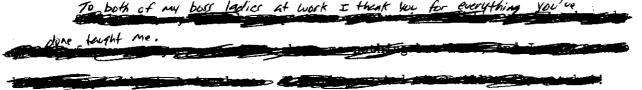
How does a beautiful young woman holds on to a man when he's faced with prison when in reality on her part we were probably friends? Life goes on, plan and simply, maybe one day if fate allows us to talk we could see if our friendship is as it was before our lives went the way it went before I caught my sentence.

With no hate in my heart over \_\_\_\_\_? I am happy and doing my best so that when I do face society I can live a life that I owe myself. So far I've wrote two urban novels, plans for a magazine label this memoir as well as plans for some more small writings.

I want people to know that prisoners, we to have thoughts, feeling, goals, and a life too. We tend to be left out.

If you know someone locked up why not drop them a letter, you never know when the favor you do can turn into a blessing for the other.

I would like to thank God first and foremost. My mom, my little brother Joseph, Joe I love you brah, not once have you talked bad. I will repay you for the love you showed me and Jerry. You know we love you. It's to the point you are the lil-big brother and we mean that. Jerry, brah, you know how I feel, I love you brah, I got you. April what can I say, but Love Ya?



Shaniece, hey you! I wish you and all that you love nothing but love.

And when are we going to write something together. Maybe if my name is next to yours my books might sell.

To my friend Adriane High and family, I'm sure we all know, Adriane for being open, honest, and real. I pray that as we all close our eyes at

TRANGON JACKSON
45
36

times we can still hear that voice of hers, you are still being truly missed by those she made a difference too. No matter how she was feeling, Adriane always made sure I got mail. Take car of my brother William.

William Albert Jackson, you are my heart and my shine, I still miss your craziness, when I see you I will more than hug you, I will beat you up just for me not taking responsibility and having you live with me. I love you.

Malik, Amari, Christina if I walk by will you three know me? It has been awhile, and still from the last time we talked, I love you three.

Now, allow me to say thanks to a couple of the fellas that were real to me. Rome, AKA. Leon Bivens, you're the best, thank you for being you even when I was a pain. Ronald A. Glinton my AkA, spiritual adviser, you never led me astray, and whenever either of us had something going on it's nice to know that we were and are still there for each other and in what we do. My old cell mate Mallory you always convinced me to follow my writings, although you don't read novels I know you'll be the first to buy mines. My cell mate "Maine", thank you for dealing with me and me constantly using the room. You always asked, "keep writing". E, you're with me so you know. Hay, hold up we're coming. Crim, you're still the same. For that I say thank you my friend!

My partner Dee'L, what's up? And to this day who would ever have thought that something I write would have seen the day of print. You were a friend and from a friend to another friend what's up? I see you.

And lastly to the ones that's in a sticky situation just hold tight and be who you are. Just know that all won't like you just like you won't like all. Just be who you are and the rest will show they self.

# DEDICATION

OUR TALENTS ARE USUALLY HIDEN
BY OTHER'S UNTIL THEY CHOOSE
TO SEE WHAT THEY'D NEGLECTED TO FIND

### DEDICATION

This memoir is dedicated to God first for finally acknowledging my mistakes that I was too blind to see. Then for finally looking at Myself and realizing that in order to ask for help I had to make the first step. Then lastly for continuing to start and finish something I wanted.

To my mom for being strong and carrying us to the top. In all and everything I do this is no exception more than half of this dedication is for William Albert Jackson, my little brother whom I miss so much. If you knew him I'm sure you'd agree. We miss you and like mom said through tears of pain, "my baby was loved", yes he still is. May you somehow still feel the love.

My little brother Joseph who still to this day does all the he can is I just say the word.

When you dedicate something to someone, to me its more than saying your thank you's, it's like without the decication that particular project wouldn't have been possible so the ones I dedicate, I dedicated from the heart because without us four none of my thoughts wouldn't have been as strong as they are now.

Thank you to my family for being who you are. We all can't have that family like the "Jones", but at least we can acknowledge the family we have no matter what they do or don't. We're all we have!