

INCARCERATED AUTHORS

**BY SOUL MAN
SERVING LIFE IN PRISON**

Just like the rap game before it, hip-hop fiction is blowing up. Street life as its called is now grossing millions of dollars annually from self published authors that started selling books right out of the back of their trunks and fresh out of prison or still in the pen. The books are often published under pen names. Through publishers like Teri Woods, Triple Crown, Urban Books, Amiya Gorilla Convict and Clark Inc. publisher's of FEDS Books imprint who publishes prison authors along with regular authors. Authors that are incarcerated, real convicts with real time who write real books write most of these books. Some of these authors were living the lives that some of your favorite rappers rap about. FEDS Magazine would like to introduce them to you.



Kwame Teague, incarcerated in North Carolina for two counts of murder, kidnapping and armed robbery that he is fighting right now says Kwame the 33-year old Newark New Jersey native who wrote Dutch, Dutch 2 and the Adventures of Ghetto Sam. Kwame is serving two life sentences for which he has been locked up for since 1994. His parole date would be after 40 years. Kwame who wrote two books doesn't have his name on the books, Teri Woods is listed as the Author because Kwame was trying to fight his murder charge and didn't want the book to become a factor against him. Kwame says he contacted Woods after reading about her in a magazine. Kwame had his people contact her and send her his books she liked the book and signed it up. It hasn't all been up hill says Kwame referring to the prison administration, "when they realized how successful the book had gotten they put me in segregation for 60 days and shipped me 7 hours from my family". They also banned the book in state prisons. Kwame is currently incarcerated at Taylorsville prison in North Carolina working on future projects and fighting for his freedom.

Another noteworthy incarcerated author is Trenton NJ native Wahida Clark who is doing a 125 month sentence in FPC Alderson in West Virginia charged with mail and wire fraud and conspiracy to money launder. Wahida has three books out "Thugs and the Women Who Love Them", "Every Thug needs a Lady" and "Payback is a Mutha" which is her current release on Kensington Publishing. She is an Essence best selling author. She writes what she calls reality fiction. Ghetto street life from the hood, welfare, food stamps, boosting, smoking weed and partying. She started writing books after seeing black authors in magazines and reading their stories. So she took a creative writing class at the prison and boom, three books later she is still in business. A sister had to do what a sister had to do explains Wahida, there are its advantages and disadvantages to being an incarcerated writer, the pros are you have time to write, with no bills; the cons are you can't really spread your wings and soar, you have to crawl.

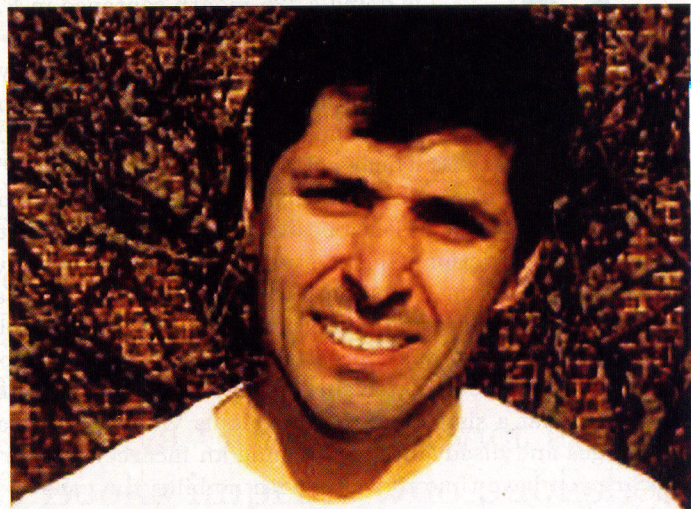


Joe Black's name has been ringing bells in the feds for the last decade due to his photocopied legal writing paper manuscripts, which have been sweeping the prison system. The 38-year-old Bronx native who's been locked down since 1994 for drug conspiracy published his first novel Street Team on Illstreetz.com. "It's an autobiography about everyone who ever played the game", Joe says about his novel. I admired Iceberg Slim and Donald Goins. They were gangstas and when I read their books it was like they were in my cell kicking it with me. "Street team is the closest you are going to get to the game without being indicted" says Black. There is no pot of gold at the end of my rainbow, just a pot of cream of wheat in the mess hall or a casket with your name on it. Incarcerated authors like Joe have spent decades of their lives in prison but with his novel he tries to show the drug game. Look for "Moving Violations" on Gorilla Convict publications soon.



Straight out the Chocolate city is 29-year-old Eyone Williams who is serving 15 to life on a second-degree murder charge. His novel "Fastlane" is a tale of the streets mixed with his life and what he has saw. " My wife and I was inspired to start our own publishing company when we saw how many big companies rejected manuscripts from unknown authors, so we started Fastlane Publications and put out Fastlanes which takes a look at the lives of a DC hustler". My wife keeps the business together while I'm in prison. Eyone says he is pleased to see the streets and the prisoners feeling Fastlanes. Eyone has been locked up for 13 years and says he is only beginning. He is now writing about Lorton Legends, which takes a look at the Notorious DC prison.

Cuban American author Michael Santos has been in the Feds since 1987 serving a 45-year sentence for a Continuing Criminal Enterprise. His current book "Life Behind Bars in America" is on St. Martin press. "As a long term prisoner I recognize that writing provides the only opportunity to reach beyond these boundaries " says the 42-year old Santos who is Eligible for parole in 2013. Santos who has three other books due out has made a name for himself. Santos says he is not a fan of the prison system, and he is convinced that when you learn how to live in prison the individual simultaneously learns how to fail in society, but the pen is mightier than the sword so I write.



Soul Man serving 25-years for LSD King Pin Charge is a journalist and publisher. His first novel Prison Stories is available at gorillaconvict.com.

