



The Fortune Society

Prisoner Re-Entry

CHANGING MINDS & BUILDING LIVES

FortuneNews

Spring 2006 Volume XLII, No. 1

fortunesociety.org

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Prison Stories

By Seth "Soul Man" Ferranti

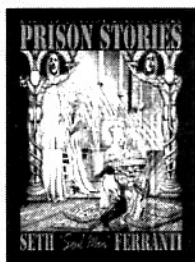
Published By: Gorilla Convict Publications, 2004

Seth "Soul Man" Ferranti serves up hardcore convict life in a story as lethal as the death penalty in his first book, *Prison Stories*, currently available from Gorilla Convict Publications. No stranger to the system, Ferranti was arrested in 1993 after faking his own suicide and spending two years as a fugitive on the US Marshal's "Most Wanted" list. A first-time, non-violent offender, he has currently served 12 years of his 25-year mandatory minimum sentence for an LSD "drug kingpin" conviction.

In *Prison Stories* Ferranti brings to life to a world that few have access to: the tough, day-to-day realities of daily life in prisons across the country. The novel's main character, Guero (Spanish slang for "white boy"), provides the reader with an unrestricted glimpse of his interactions "behind the wall." It is an environment where displaced souls form brotherly bonds and notions of honor strain the decisions of men caught in an all-or-nothing environment. The reader learns quickly that in prison mistakes bring attention, dis-

trust is ingrained in everyone and the littlest things can get you killed. It's clear that Ferranti applies a similar brand of stoicism to his own life, as he explains in a 1998 interview for *Rolling Stone* magazine: "most predators are bullies. They prey on weak people. So you can't look weak. You just have to be assertive with people. Assertive but polite." This is a philosophy that he seems to have transposed onto his fictional alter-ego.

Prison Stories opens as Guero begins a lengthy sentence in federal custody and



the ensuing chapters depict, in Ferranti's trademark grit, his struggle to maintain

his humanity as a convict. The uncertainty of environment, the power and security of the prison hierarchy and the anguish when "normal" values are tested in an environment of treachery and deceit are felt in this tale of blood and bones survival.

Prison Stories transports the reader to a world surrounded by steel and concrete, bringing a level of realism seldom found in novels or in television programs like "Oz." The reader is able to witness Guero's struggle to overcome his demons and achieve even while surrounded by people motivated by mayhem, corruption and greed. The pages of this book represent the experience of many individuals. *Prison Stories* is a must read for anyone interested in the reality of incarceration.

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