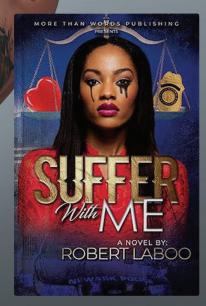
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EXCLUSIVE

BRICK CITY RIQ INTERVIEW
BY JIMMYSODOPE

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KEISHA & TRIGGA

Book Reviews

Exclu-Sive Inter-Views

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Pg6 - 2 Sided Mirror

Pg8 - The Arrangement

Pg9 - Two Masks One Heart

Pg11 - Streets Bleed Murder

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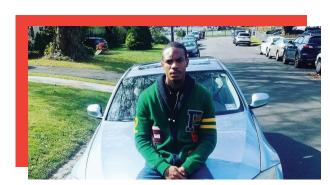
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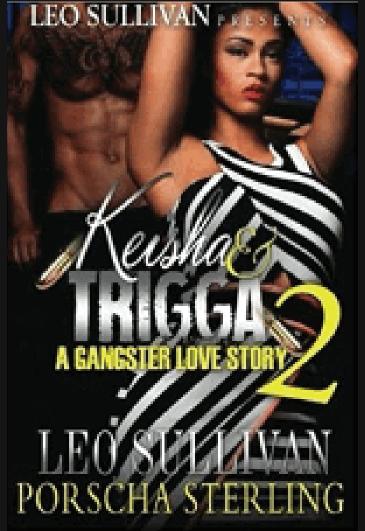
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KEISHA & TRIGGA 2

Can't say for sure what I initially expected when I picked up Keisha And Trigga 2, but after reading only two chapters I found myself easily caught up in the challenges that the central characters were facing as they struggled to carve out a truce in their own realities. I especially like how the authors delivered up the goods through a creative, aggressive yet clear story trekking method.

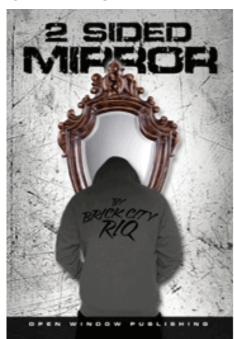
In all Keisha and Trigga 2 turned out to be an impressive and enjoyable read, which left me contemplating the outcome long after the book was finished. -Tyrone Bridges 119320B/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

Keisha And Trigga 2 was okay, if you're looking for a love story mixed up into a hitman's downfall. One thing I felt was typical was, a lot of writers are portraying goons as hitmen for hire. Not a lot of gangsters are patient enough to be so calculated. I understand the effort to change the dynamic of a thug, but it should be realistically based.

-Tariq Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

Predictable Read. Keisha and Trigga's story read like the hundreds of other books written in this fashion. Trigga is the toughest killer in the whole book, who fears nothing. Although there is nothing that makes Keisha special, she's the only one who can capture his heart in his entire lifetime. The dialogue is insulting to the reader. It's as if they've attempted to just fill the book with enough words to get them through the project and then allude to a third installment of this subpar work. It lacks creativity and was a boring read.

-Just Mii Thoughts/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ



2 - SIDEI MIRR OR

Lots of money and foreign cars. Your everyday, run of the mill Urban Fiction book, right? Not so fast. The creativity and thought process of Brick City Rig takes his account out of the realm of the ordinary redundancy and places him on pace to take over the book world. 2 Sided Mirror has a wide array of characters. From the brains of the operation, Asmar, to the principal driven Lotti, who you instantly bond with. Each character had their own superbly unique personality. No two characters are alike. As you travel with them

attain illegitimate suc- mont, NJ cess, you will witness firsthand the destruction of their infrastructure. Kidnapped loved ones, misplaced trusts and internal strife implode what was set to be the greatest team the streets may have ever seen. But is that the only side of the mirror? I'll let you decide. This is a great story, a must read! Don't miss the opportunity!

Southern State Correc- read as opposed to just tion Facility/ Delmont, a story that's readable. If NJ

With a multitude of well-developed characters, superimposed upon a turbulent storyline that chronicles the ins and outs of the drug game, as it's played out on some of the meanest streets of Newark, NJ. 2 Sided Mirror by Brick City Rig, not only offers it's readers a meaningful glimpse into the expertise and literary prowess of the author, but it(2 Sided Mirror) made me know on the deepest level that more often than not, things are way more complicated then they sometimes appear... A very realistic and adventurous read.

-Tyrone Bridges 119320B/ Southern State

through their journey to Correction Facility/ Del-

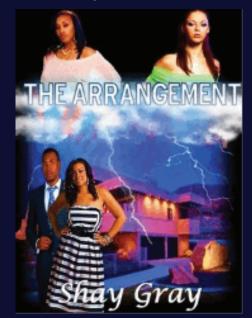
After reading and enjoy-

ing the same genre for so

long, I was disappointed when it became so familiar and predictable. No matter the author, venue or characters; it was the same story. Until 2 Sided Mirror. It changed my energy and view on the genre for the better. Yes, it's Urban Fiction, but it's more believable. Like it's -Just Mii Thoughts/ really happening as you I had no idea of what life in Newark, NJ was about, 2 Sided Mirror put me smack dab in the middle of it or close enough. You think you can control destiny? Think you know the outcome of a fast street life? 2 Sided Mirror will make you second guess those sentiments. Streets are so lovely or so we think! 2 Sided Mirror had me questioning which side of the glass I really want to see myself in. Before you wish for one life, be thankful of the one you already have. Because some end up with no life at all.

> -Tariq Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correctional Facility/ Delmont, NJ





THE AR-*RANGE-*

A man with three baby mommas, one being the wife along with two others who wish they could be. Swindled into a scheme meant to make a self-centered, controlling man content or was it that? Scientist placed in the mix makes it seem like an experiment stumbled upon or was it planned? Anyway, it was a nice way to exploit the drama that follows a man's open and carefree sex life with a twist that will somehow shock you. With a hint of mystery, greed, sarcasm and a

woman scorned, it will feeling like we both (the make you see how we author and I) had bitten become prisoners of our off more than we can own mistakes. In the end chew... the plan works out perfect for everyone or does -Tyrone Bridges 119320B/ it? You decide. As for me Southern State Correcit was a different read tion Facility/ Delmont, and a liked one. I was NJ amused to say the least.

-Tariq Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

from the very offset pro- from being believable as rytelling lacked any real measure of continuity and -Just Mii Thoughts/ therefore placed too great **Southern State Correc**a strain upon credulity. It is tion Facility/ Delmont, because of the author's in- NJ ability to deliver on these core ideas which govern proper storytelling, I was left with the conclusion of

This book began with so

much promise that it fails to deliver throughout. The Arrangement is plagued with an inconsistent storyline. As the plot thickens, Once in a while a person it seems the author only stumbles upon a book succeeds in confusing herwhich not only confus- self. The characters lack es them, but also leaves personality. They're underthem wondering how in developed and therefore the world did such a work render themselves ineffecget published? For me tive. You can't empathize that book was Shay Gray's with their circumstances The Arrangement. Which because they are so far vided one inconsistency real. It's apparent that Shay after another. As lofty as Gray has talent. This novel the concept behind The is just not a flattering rep-Arrangement was, the sto-resentation of that talent.



With its takeover plots. all of the shoot 'em ups, steamy sex, undercover agents and sleaze ball attorneys, one would easily surmise that Two Masks One Heart 2 by Jacob Spears and Trayvon D. Jackson would turn out to be a good read. But not so fast, because neither author seems to have the true imagination and or literary expertise, for all that matters, to spin out what any reader would coin a logical/reasonable method of storytelling. Together they present

a book which, for the As an avid reader books the place. In short, corny Iv crashed and burned. -Tyrone Bridges 119320B/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

If judging a book by its cov-

er meant anything, Two Masks One Heart 2 would be used as a pilot to look at the cover and not waste your time. It's categorized this book. It felt as if the as a street novel but gives authors had no love for off the aura of a love sto- the story they were writry instead. It takes place ing and put in the least in ATL, supposedly Bank- amount of effort. Maybe head, and I can't tell if a their ultimate goal was to street wise or a non-street get it out in a timely fashwise family by the name of ion. If so, they did themthe Clarks are trying to run selves an injustice. Briefly, Atlanta. The storyline has too many characters and not enough story. There's betrayal from a friend of the family, a girl forced to drop out of school and be in the streets, a brother who's incarcerated and an unnecessary hood war that doesn't coincide with the story. It lost my attention. If you want an urban novel that tells the story about the hood, mystery, murder, betrayal, sex and greed, this isn't it. A predictable, nonmind challenging read with no excitement and mediocre storytelling. -Tarig Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correc-

tion Facility/ Delmont,

most part, was all over are my hobby and number one source of enterflight, which eventual- tainment. Nothing brings me more pleasure than a good book. Two Masks One Heart 2, however felt like work. I took no enjoyment from reading this book. The storyline and characters were deplorable. Words usually paint a picture so vivid it's like a movie playing out in front of you. I didn't get that in the Clarks are a family from Atlanta. The parents were murdered, the son imprisoned, and the daughter became a recluse. Her boyfriend's a rich drug dealer/hitman. Those are the things that set it apart, everything else is the typical plot of the majority of books slaying this genre. I usually condemn authors for insulting the reader

> -Just Mii Thoughts /Southern State Correction Facilitv/ Delmont. NJ

> with their vocabulary or

better yet the lack of it,

Two Masks however had

intelligent wordplay, but

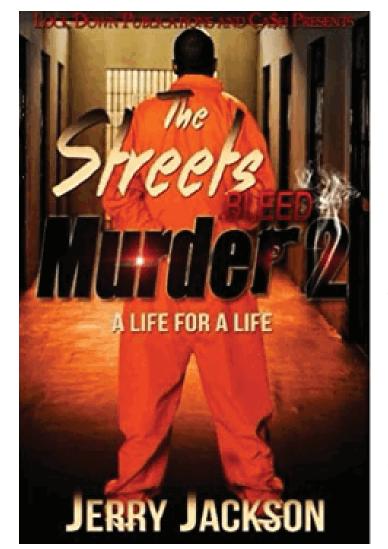
just because you know all

the words under the sun it

doesn't give you the talent

to write a book.





STREETS BLEED MUR-DER 2

Karma is real, remember never start a life of crime and killing if you have something to lose, right? Well, this was the typical story of gangsters doing just that. In Urban novels the writer should try with the best of his/her ability to capture the mind of the reader and make them feel as if it's truly happening. This story didn't do it for me. With guys giving back prison time only to come home and kill everyone seems

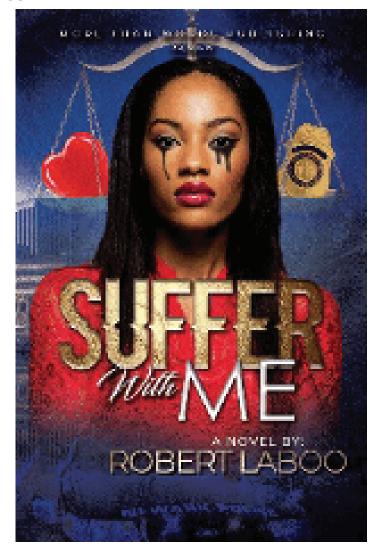
farfetched. As far as family getting caught in the mix, that's the most repetitive storyline in books I've read. Over the top gun fights and unrealistic situations are too typical and too easy to write about, which left me uninterested. I feel authors are trying to live a surreal lifestyle through their characters. Very unattractive. Be creative not redundant.

-Tariq Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

My opinion on this book varies in different areas. In certain parts I applaud the authors ability to make the reader feel his characters' pain. Then in other portions I frowned at his lack of technique in making some scenes seem realistic. Gangsta's family members are shot and he becomes an invincible one-man army. Throughout all the twist and turns in the plot I was there, yet the climax failed to grab me. Jerry Jackson is talented enough, in my opinion, to have written a better story. Yet he felt compelled not to challenge himself and instead put out a novel similar to the other Urban Fiction novels that plague the bookshelves. Instead of raising the bar creatively, he stuck to the norm. Writing is an art and with the exception of a few authors, the rest are sharing the same picture and deeming it one of a kind.

-Just Mii Thoughts/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

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SUFFER WITH ME

Wow! Talk about a wolf in sheep's clothing, with its well-developed plot and myriad of exceptionally colored characters. Suffer With Me grabs and holds fast as it drags the reader through one thrilling turn of the page after another. Suffer With Me is an impressive and shocking joyride/psycho thriller, which not only challenges the notions of what a "true to heart" Urban author's book should or shouldn't be, but he has erased the lines in such a way that it will leave his contemporaries scrambling to keep up.

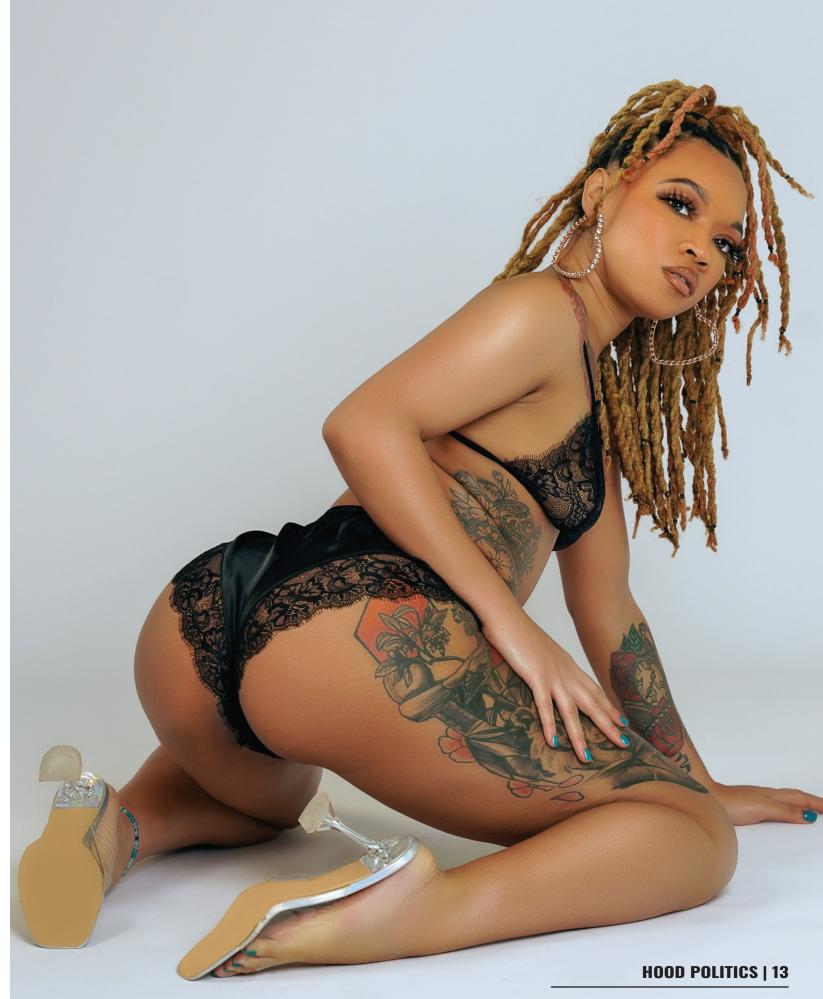
-Tyrone Bridges 119320B/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

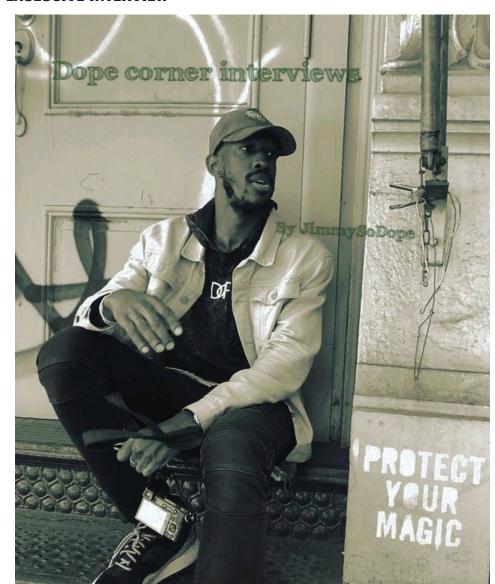
You want streets? Suffer With Me. You want suspense? Suffer With Me. With just enough drama to keep you optimistic about giving someone your heart. Suffer With Me is a good read, with just enough of everything else to make it more than what is considered a "hood book". From a gangsta changing his life to a woman with an abusive, jealous past that may take what she worked so hard for away. Suffer With Me will keep you guessing and then still have your antennas up even after it ends. You think you'll know but you have no idea. Suffer With Me.

-Tariq Wright 261492C/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ

In a day where "Urban Fiction" has become synonymous with "grossly exaggerated", Robert Laboo presents a tale tailored in originality. Suffer With Me is the story of a wayward detective being stalked by a serial murderer. She crosses paths with Benjamin Cooper who is a rehabilitated street figure being tortured by karma. What is most appealing to me is the storyline. "Who's doing it?" That's the question you will continually ask yourself throughout this novel. The author has somehow managed to create a suspense thriller worthy of the time of a James Patterson devotee, while wrapped in a gritty robe of streets. Making it relatable for any Al-Saddiq Banks fan. It has just enough of both worlds to become Urban Fictions first crossover. This book will win back 98% of the readers like myself who are beginning to lose faith in the genre altogether.

-Just Mii Thoughts/ Southern State Correction Facility/ Delmont, NJ





REFLECTIONS IN A TWO SIDED MIRROR -

A CONVERSATION WITH BRICK CITY RIO

There's certain experiences you can't quite imagine depth of until you experience them. For instance, having children, skydiving or being in prison are a few of those things you don't until you know. I received a collect call from my childhood friend, author and entrepreneur, BrickCityRig,todiscusswriting,familyandperseverance.

What do you want people to walk away with after reading your books?

- I just want people to understand my lingo. Not just vibe with the words. I don't scribble to glorify the game. I like to make people aware of its deceit. A lot of people pick up a book and say it's a good read but it's a message in everything. You just gotta sit down and decipher it.

With so many things designed to suppress your energy, what motivates vou?

- I really been through the trenches so to speak in life. The bitter and the sweet moments. I had a kid when I was young. I left when he was two years old. When I came back, he was thirteen. Real short re-acquaintance we had then I found myself back in a tough situation. So, it's like at this point in life man, I feel like I've been losing all my life. I deserve to feel what a win feels like. At the end of the day, I'm gonna keep grinding. I never had it easy. I just look at all the people that surround me and know that even if I don't get my shot, they deserve theirs. That's what keeps me pushing.

People might say there are lots of books like yours on the shelves, what makes your writings different?

- To be honest, I can't speak - Yea I started a hauling

What made you choose to write under the name **Brick City Rig?**

birth place. Brick city. Born and raised there. At one tially convince them to point & time I couldn't walk a different path? see past that. It's where I first loved, where I first lost. I just wanted to do it for my city. At this day, with everything that I've been through, it's honestly a reminder. It reminds me of where I never want to be again. I love my city but it's been my crutch and I'm ready to walk.

I know writing is your passion or at least one of your passions but you have other business ventures?

on their behalf because I company. I still have the can't see what their shoes truck out there. It's parked. feel like. But mine man, Me and my brother are I really been through it. trying to fix up the paper-I write in a fiction-based work to add him to the form but I speak from real LLC and keep pushing. I life lessons. I try to show got a fiancé out there. I and tell the people, I lend have a kid outside of her, them my eyes in a sense so we have three togethso they don't have to see er and I'm still trying to this world with their own. provide. Even from be-It's a tough world that we hind the wall I'm trying live in. I just hope that if to provide because that's they don't remember any- what we're supposed to thing else they remember do. So, I'm not gonna lay that I always kept it real. down. I'm going to keep grinding and when these gates open, I'm going to be ready to face the world.

For the young brothers - It's where I'm from. My out in the streets, what can you say to poten-

- Even in this situation I'm in right now. I'm around young guys that are facing 10-20 years for car jacking, robberies, fraud & different things of that nature and I'm watching them break. They start talking about their kids and everything we have to lose but its like, that's what we forget. We forget everything we have to lose until we're here. You

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

understand? My advice to them is that they have to slow down a bit. Reallv listen and see who's paying attention to what they're doing. Who's going to benefit from their departure or suffer from it. That alone would give them legs to stand on.

Riq is currently fighting for his freedom and could be reunited with his family sooner than later!

Follow Brick City Riq on @him_th erealdeal



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Purchase "2 Sided Mirror" here!



https://www.amazon.com/ Sided-Mirror-Brick-City-Ria/dp/1940097126

Brick City Rig's 2nd book, "Blurred Vision" coming soon.

Written by JimmySoDope

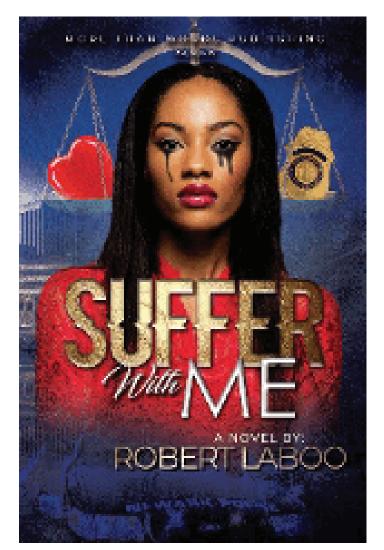


SUFFER WITHME EXCERPT

 $\mathbf{\Omega}$ enji stands in front of a row of houses Don a one-way block keeping a close eye on oncoming traffic. His footing feels foreign even though this is his homeland. The drug transactions are coming in such a rapid succession, it's unnerving. The block is South 11th street, between 13th Avenue and 12th Avenue in Newark. But through the love of their Westside ties, he and his cohorts named their strip. Cali Block. He is one of the originators of the drugs infested, dismal area. A burgundy Chrysler 300, with limo tint pulls up, all eyes are glued to it. Out jumped another originator of Cali Block. This man is the closest semblance Benji has to a brother. His day one friend, Lay Low. My guy!" Lay low, greets with sincere joy. "What brings you out here to these corners of the Wild West? This don't even fit you no more." When Benji severed ties with the streets, it broke Lay Low's heart. Not only did he lose his right hand man but he lost the architect. The blueprint was in Benji's head and he built their territory up from basically nothing. In his absence Lay Low had to alter his brain to emulate Benji's. To his success, because Caliisathriving business. 44'm just trying to spot the lost souls and give them light, Lay. don't want no smoke." Benji, raises his hands in mock surrender. *Thetwomenembracemomentarilygiving* onlookersaglimpseoftheirunspokenlove. *Come on, Ru. First you leave, now you trying to take the little bros from me?

You gotta leave me a little sumthin." Benji looks at all the action surrounding him. "Shit, it looks like you have a lot something to me. Enough to pack up and end the show." Lay Low looks at his main man as he ties his dreadlocks in a bun. "Bro, this all us right here, we run this show. If I end it now, what the little homies got in me except a deserter?" "Lay, we was shown the life by the same man. So as far as you running this show, you're delusional. What was Bruh's golden rule?" Lay smiles, "Blood don't run nothing, if Blood don't own nothing." "Exactly, the more we own, positively, the more we give them." He points at the young bloods, "The more we give them, the less we deprive them of." He now points at the addicts and neighborhood. "Ru, so you woke up off your Geronimo Pratt wave and couldn't think of nobody to make feel like shit but me?" "Ha-ha. Nah never, my guy. You know I'm a firm believer in 'sometimes you gotta do bad to do good.', but only as a means to an end. We supposed to use a negative situation to create a positive one for us, our families and our communities. Not increase the degree of negativity. To the point a five year-old is the caretaker of his three year-old brother, because his mother's addicted to pills and his father's dead from bangin'. You know I ain't here to judge you, Lay. I just want better for all of us. But the real reason I'm here, is because I needed to be around genuine love. And if nobody else got it for me, I know Lay do." Benji smiles and daps Lay Low. Both their eyes spot the charcoal gray Chevy Trailblazer at the same time. It slow rolls as Benji attempts to see through the impenetrable darkness of the tints. He's just waiting for the doors to bust open and the shots to start flying. "Ru, stop staring. That's that work. We out."

It's funny how you search high and low for a rabbit and can't find it in the field. Just when you give up searching, you spot it in the one place you neglected to look. Inside the rabbit hole. This isn't just coincidental. Detective Lewis thinks. According to Benjamin Cooper's rap sheet, his first arrest was on this block. "I found your hole, Benji Rabbit." Lewis says with excitement. This is even better than he believed. Everybody and their grandmother gangbangs on this block. "Birds of a feather flock together, Mr. Rabbit."



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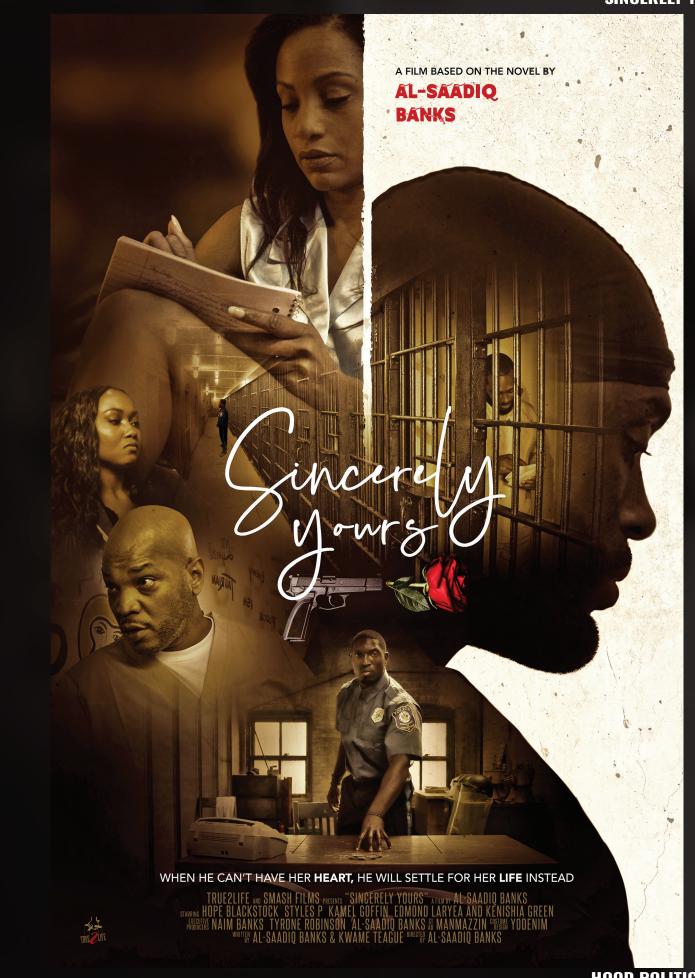


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Pittman

10.A Father's Sacrifice by Ben Burgess 11.She Said It's Your Child 2 by Sherene Holly Cain

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