

"Realism"

I'm done with the game for what it's worth.
The same old game got me sentenced to more time than I've been on earth.
On my face I wear smiles to cover the pain, but inside I'm really hurt.
My bed is made up, so now I have to lay in it.
God-willing I don't have to forever stay in it.
Thus far, I've endured four-thousand-something odd days in it.
I realized that this place meant to make you better can make you worse.
So, I learned to be one with myself and just make it work.
I think outside the box, you know outside these prison blocks.
I do my best not to indulge in any nonsense.
I've set goals and I've planned them well.
If I fail to plan, it is only logical that I plan to fail.
I promised myself to break the cycle of statistics and never land back in jail,
Where in intake they ask us, "Where you want your body mailed?"
We loved to chase that lifestyle lived by the rich and famous
while very few are remembered by name and the majority die nameless.

E. Wiles
Pennsylvania

Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

Why do you think we're all so drawn to the lifestyles of "the rich and famous"?

What might be some more meaningful goals for our lives – ones that bravery and honesty can teach us?

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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