

"The Final Decision"

Dear addiction,

Are you satisfied? Does it make you happy that I could no longer hide - you - in my veins?! The blame - the shame - the lifestyle - the game. Sometimes you SCREAM my name - other times it's under your breath - ever reminding me that we aren't done yet. I try to keep you off my mind - but you welcome yourself every single time - I shine - and then here comes your darkness - but they say before the dawn it's always darkest. Here you sit with your sinister grin - 'cuz once again, you think you win - But you should know by now - my growth game is strong. I won't give up that easy - I've been in this too long - to just bow down now - it's time to get on YOUR knees - it's YOUR turn to bow. Beg for mercy. Try to plead. Tell ME that I'm all you need...let me rip you from YOUR family - let me take away YOUR sanity. Time and time & time again - you took away my loved ones - you took away my friends - and I trusted you - it was a lethal kiss - a permanent decision for a temporary fix - but see - this is the difference - between you & me... you locked me up - but ima set you free. You stole me from my kid - you deprived him of his mother - and my parents from their daughter and my soulmate of a lover. And still you sit back & smile at the mess that you made - and you keep on taking after all that I gave. You can no longer create a mess to keep putting me through - so today I declare my separation from you! I know in my heart I'll never be okay - until I make the final decision to truly walk away. I used to smile to hide all the pain I got - and there was so much pain so I smiled a lot. The "hero" in "heroin" now I see - is the woman in the mirror staring back at me.

Miccia D.

Pennsylvania

Thank You FOR READING!

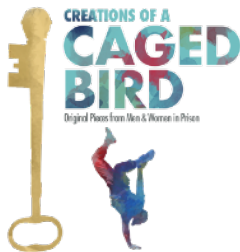
Below is a question to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use it as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

Imagine your character strength of Bravery speaking directly to something you consider one of your greatest weaknesses. We ALL have the capacity to be brave; what might YOUR bravery have to say here?

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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