

### Clouded Judgment

You see my charges, not me, you see my color, not me. You nod your head as I speak, but yet your eyes are telling me another thing. Your mannerisms are so deafening, arms folded, mouth pursed, eyes squinting as if it's hard for you to see. You are seeing with your opinions & hearing with your assumptions. It's so frustrating, I pout, I even almost full on shout, because the truths in your mind is already made up before I even open my mouth. I am not my charges. I am not my color. I am Mya who loves her brothers. I am Mya who with love she smothers. I would never wish this on another. This post-traumatic stress, nightmares & heartache. No, I want no one to partake in this trend. I'm trying so hard to break out & so many people are fighting to get in. You don't have to come from where I came from to empathize with my situation, you don't even need eyes to analyze my trepidation has complications. I am no monster in nor way, shape, or form. I am just a young woman who finds it difficult to mourn, because how can you mourn if you can't even believe you're in this storm to begin with? I was prom queen once & years ago I was a CNA. But today I am only acknowledged by a number & my last name. Yes, sadly, I'm an inmate. I just made a horrible mistake some where along the way. August 4th to be exact. So, no, I am no monster, in no way, shape, or form. I am simply Mya, Mya Marie Manus Moore.

Mya M.

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!

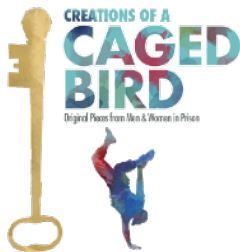
***What would you like to say to someone who assumes they know you because of your assigned number, or the uniform you wear, or the mistakes you made in the past?***

***Think about the kinds of things Mya tells her reader about who she was and who she is now. Who have you been in the past, who are you now, who do you hope to be in the future?***

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.*

## OTHER SHINING LIGHT COURSES ON EDOVO YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK OUT:



(Volume 1 & 2)



(Issues as far back as Sept '21!)



***For these courses, you have the opportunity to receive a certificate directly from Shining Light if you send in a written copy of your work to the address above.***