



**TAKIN' IT TO
ANOTHER LEVEL**

**IN THE
BEGINNING**

BOOK 1

A NOVEL BY

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CHAPTER 4

Then for the next couple of blocks nothing was said between them. They were in their own thoughts staring ahead as Rihanna's Umbrella song was playing on the radio. Finally to get in to something else Frost turned to G and asked, "So G, what do you think about what some of the old school playas like Pee Wee Kirkland, Guy Fisher, Akbar Pratt, and now Preme are saying about the game being dead?"

"Well they definitely can't be saying it because there's no supply and demand for it. Because there's more drugs and drug users out today than there ever was, so it didn't die, it multiplied. Look at all the new kinds you got out there that you didn't have before, all the new different kinds of trees. So I guess they must be saying it to try to discourage the young from taking that route or making the mistake they may feel they made and see it as a no way situation now because of the risks and consequences involved with all the snitchin' and amount of time that they are giving out now."

"Yeah, I can see it being for any one or both of those reasons."

"Yeah, and plus seasoned players ain't tryin' to hear that they're gonna keep the game alive, because that's all they know and what they do. And the young die hard kids that be out there reppin' the thug life ain't tryin' to hear that either. They're trying to hear what should they do and are looking for someone to tell them or show them. They're on some whatever whatever shit trying to get paid because they don't have the education, intelligence, skills, or desire to be successful career people, nor do they have the talent the rappers and

professional athletes have to be successful at those things to get the money, cars, bling, houses, and girls they so bodaciously flaunt in their faces on TV and in magazines. So they're going to try to go about getting some of that the best and easiest way they know how, and that's slangin' and bangin'."

"I know that's right," Frost said nodding his head in agreement. "Because I'm one of them."

"And then you have those who have the potential to be those things but lack the ambition, motivation, and right connections to pursue them. So instead they chose the game as a means to an end of getting theirs."

"But why do you suppose it's like that though?"

"Because that's their easiest and quickest option to getting the things they want. So some simply accept the fact that they are what they are and don't want to be anything else. While others just like the thrill, power, recognition and street fame that comes with it." But that's because they're anti-social by nature even if they don't it.

"What's anti-social G?"

"That's someone not conforming to the rules of society."

"Oh."

"So you see the drug game isn't dead. It's only dead to those who have been broken by the pressure of the system, had a change of conscious, turned to religion, given up and are no longer willing to play the game or have no ability to take it to the next level, and then finally you have those who are just plain scared."

"Yeah I can see that G."

"Essentially though they don't have the resourcefulness for dealing with the current challenges of competition, snitchin', new laws, and law enforcement crackdowns and the technology."

"I hear ya G. But what's resourcefulness?"

"That's being clever and imaginative in dealing with difficult situations."

"So how can the challenges we face be dealt with?"

"By a virtuous leaders stepping up to take the game to a higher level now that the bar has been raisen and the stakes raised. Beca-"

"Um excuse me for cuttin' you off G, but what do you mean by a virtuous leader?"

Smiling pleased that the boy was doing what he wanted him to do and that was to ask questions on what key words and phrases meant G said, "I'm glad that you're asking these questions. It shows that you really want

to learn something. And I know that you don't know what some of the words I'm using mean, or more importantly mean in the context of how I'm using them. And if that's the case how can you possibly understand what I'm talking about?"

"I don't. But I definitely want to because I know there's a lot I can learn from you to better myself, hood and the game."▣

"And that's why you have to ask questions, because that's how you'll get answers. So don't be shy about asking them."

"Oh I'm not shy about that G, as you will see."

"Good then. So virtuous in the context of how I used it means, a person having a particular effective quality to do what has to be done."

"Then I must be virtuous because I can do what has to be done."

"That's a must have quality if you're really committed to trying to do something big. But as I was about to say before you cut me off, the game and gangs are stagnant at this point, meaning they're failing to change or develop, and they're saturated with misguided or not guided all good young niggas looking for direction, and then you have your fake ass young knuckleheads, niggas who shouldn't be in the game and ain't nothing but in just the way."

"You ain't say nothin' wrong there G. So what would a virtuous leader have to do to change all that and take it to the next level?"

"Use his initiative and weed out the fake ass jokers and knuckleheads and establish a disciplined association of bangers and characters that respect qualified authority and can really commit to a worthwhile cause and bettering themselves."

"What's initiative?"

"It's the ability to make feasible plans and to follow through with them."

"What do you mean by feasible plans?"

"Plans that are capable of being done, executed, or effected."

"Well I'm a young die hard gang banger G who's not satisfied with the way things are right now and want direction to change things, but I don't know how to go about doing it. But I see myself as a virtuous leader who's willing to listen and wants to learn if someone was willing to teach me what it is that I have to do to make those changes."

"Yeah, I feel ya. Because I was a diehard young nigga too and virtuous as well. But with no one to

school me I had to learn the hard way through trial and error making some mistakes and that cost me a lot of time and personal losses.”

“But I don’t want to have to learn that way G. So whereas you didn’t have someone to school you, could you school me so I won’t have to go through all that?”

Coming to a stop at another red light a few blocks from the health club, G took a moment to take a serious look at Frost then asked, “Why should I do that?”

”Because I’m a lot like you. I’m virtuous and want to do what you wanted to do in Boston here in New York. And you being a seasoned gangsta I know you would love to see it come true. Well you can through me, together we can make this happen.”

Impressed with his answer G looked at him nodding his head with his mouth twisted down and said, “Good answer. So yeah, okay. We can do that, but so you’ll know off the rip it’s going to be a lot of serious work and requires your complete commitment.”

Yes! Frost said to himself relaxing the anxiety he had that G wasn’t going to go for it. “I didn’t expect that it wouldn’t be and wouldn’t do it any other way. Thanks G for doing this,” he said with a smile on his face. I won’t let you down. You’ll see.”

“I’m pretty confident in you that you won’t, and I see that you are a lot like me, otherwise I wouldn’t bother. Now I know I don’t have to tell you to keep this strictly between us?”

“I already know. Even though as much as I would enjoy the braggin’ rights of being able to tell my boys that i’m being taught by you. I know better. But to be up front with you G, one day out of pride I’m gonna have to tell them about it.”

“Yeah, yeah when everything is said and done and I’m dead. But if I didn’t think you had in you what it’s gonna take I wouldn’t be taking you on.”

“Now who’s tryin’ to gas who?”

“No seriously though I do see a lot of myself in you. You have great potential and the boldness in you that you’re gonna need to do this that I’m goin’ to do with you. But being that you brought up the subject of being up front, I’m gonna be up front with you too. So let me tell you this so that you have no misunderstanding or illusions about me and you’ll know exactly what you’re getting yourself into dealing with me beforehand.”

“I already know G.”

But instead of taking for granted that he did turning his head to face Frost, so he could clearly convey the seriousness of what he was about to say, G looked him directly in his eyes and said, “No, you don’t. So let me explain this to you. Now by me agreeing to do this with you I can be charged with aiding and abetting you

in everything that you do as a result of that if you or someone you tell talks. So for that I want you to know beyond a shadow of any doubt that I don't have any problem with killing your ass or anyone you love for that matter to prevent that from happening or as revenge if it did. Now did I make myself perfectly clear?"

Frost, not showing the least bit of uneasiness and without breaking eye contact, calmly said, "as I said G, I already know."

Impressed by the boy's poise this time, brief response, and his not trying to give him some meaningless rap about oh how he wouldn't do that, G just turned his head back around and quietly drove off again as the light turned green.

After riding a short distance Frost said, "You know G, a lot of people would consider you to be corrupting the morals of a minor by taking me under your wing to teach me what you are about to, and would even say that you're wrong or evil."

"Yeah, they would. But that would only be because they don't understand or accept the harsh realities of life as I do. You see me, I'm a realist. That means that I have an inclination towards objective truth and pragmatism, and relate to the representation of actions or social conditions as they actually are in life. So knowing that die hard anti-social kids like you are not going to conform to the rules of society and do y'all's thing regardless of what people say or the consequences behind them I realize that someone knowledgeable and virtuous should at least step up to the plate and take on the responsibility of teaching y'all how to go about doing it right so that it is productive and beneficial to y'all and society rather than totally destructive. You see I believe that in this so-called society of equal right, certain facets of the anti-social the criminal element, and the convicted felon who should have voting rights, should representation by someone who's not afraid to advocate their views and concerns in the political arena as do the social, a kind of anti-social party, to check government overreaching and balance out the power. You see because we need a political system where power is exercise by the whole nation not just groups and corporations. This would ease the discontent and stop the abuse of power and overreaching which is pushing our country towards a police state, and create a fair and reasonable balance between the social and anti-social, a sort of win-win situation and a real democracy instead of the false appearance of it."

"I feel what you're sayin' G. But what's pragmatism?"

"It's being concerned with facts or actual events and having a practical matter of fact way of approaching or assessing situations or solving problems."

"And what's being objective?"

"It's being uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices."

"Those are good ways to be G, so from now on I'm a concentrate on being that way," Frost said sitting back to reflect on what he just learned.

Making a right at the next corner and turning left four blocks down they reached the health club. Pulling into the parking lot they got out and got their bags from the back and went inside for their workout.