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The Lion's Den: Chronicles of a Las Vegas Money Launderer (vol. 1)

A novel by: T.J. Breeden

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The Lion's Den is the story of Alex Pryce, an urban Ivy Leaguer who is both the product of Chicago's financial district and the inner city borough; who forwent professional designations & Wall Street Hedge Funds, for an underground cash pool & the Las Vegas strip. This story searches into the mindset of a hustler with youthful ambitions, Harvard credentials, limitless credibility, numerous professional designations... who instead of taking Wall Street by storm, elects to head the most dangerous money laundering syndicate ever assembled.

This novel is the first of a volume series that T.J. plans to release (the follow-up is scheduled for a Spring 2009). The main character is an African American male who escapes the gutters of the inner city to an Ivy League education and career placement on the Chicago Stock Exchange. He eventually grows sick of corporate pandering that continues to hinder his professional advancement and decides to leave the big uptown firm for a smaller brokerage wire-house with better pay, less oversight, manageable restrictions... and thus finds himself engulfed in a proposed money laundering scheme. Consideration to wash bills further propels him into an illegal industry of numbers manipulation in the one and only US city where market tampering & odds making are a normal economic practice... LAS VEGAS!!

"In creating this story, my goal was to draw upon the complexities & similarities shared between those who pursue a life of domestic illegality; and their white-collar counterparts whose "Fortune 500" credibility is a cover for insider trading. Many of the nation's most well known purveyors of illegal activity were once corporate heads of state, whose ambitions for social elitism and luxury vacations overpowered their capacity to reason. Then there are those whose battle with the destructive ills of our inner-city communities finds them propelled into a life of crime. These are the "would've been/could've been" CEO's turned street pharmacists whose mismanaged potential eventually land them behind bars, or worse. Then, there are those who represent both."

"It's a story that is so fundamentally pragmatic, that it's first few chapters could easily be misinterpreted as a Forbes personal biography. My hope is that this story connects to the individual reader's sense of realism in such a way, that he/she finds it easy & perhaps enticing to overlook the fact that it's fiction, inserting themselves into the storyline and thus narrating the main character's personal journey from his/her own eyes. And though you may not agree with the characters' reasoning, my hope is that you will confer with their emotional sensibilities. The disparities of wealth in America, poverty in the inner city, pressure to conform into corporate America, the thin line between white-collar crime & legitimate promotions, lust for power & wealth, and most importantly the constant inner struggle of right & wrong. Drawing from the lead character's conflicted personality while inviting the reader to examine the contradictions

that make him sincere in his pursuits, I'm hoping will give way to an entertaining & emotionally-charged artistic experience."

"The Lion's Den guarantees a reading experience unlike any other! It is an amazingly articulated narrative of self reliance, friendship, and life on the Las Vegas strip. Sophisticated, trendy, urban, mature... Its Hip-Hop converged into the 'Wall Street Journal!' This is unlike any novel you've ever read, and stylistically can only be matched by its highly-anticipated, forthcoming sequel!"

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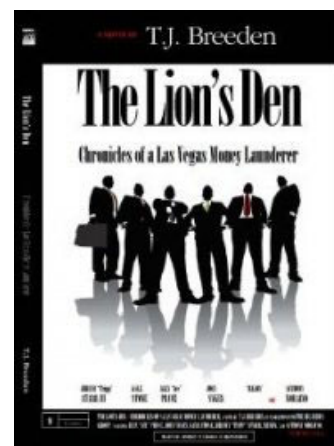
Aside from the book's very natural urban tone, I've infused sophisticated language & researched financial terminology into the character's narrative; so much so that the manuscript reads almost as a script or diary entry. Having worked in financial services for years, negotiated multi-million dollar deals, and associated my professional life with many of the same networks that the main characters attempt to infiltrate, the writing process came natural. I see it as sort of a fictional merger of the Wall Street Journal & Hip-Hip. It is trend-setting, cool, urban, stylistically cerebral, substantive, and artistically centered in the greed-filled tendencies that fuel the American Dream. I think that it has the potential to absorb a very diverse market attraction, & perhaps even draw scouts of major studios for possible on-screen production & distribution.

T.J. Breeden had his first book published in 2007 (a poetic manuscript entitled: My Rain: Dear Love) and the thrill of having his passion for words converged to print compelled me to further dedicate himself to the art. He recently released his 3rd title; Love 3:16, in January of 2009. Via a joint venture with a subsidiary of Amazon.com, he has decided to publish this novel series and associated projects by way of The **ibL** Media Group (a developing entertainment division of Focus-IBL Enterprise Solutions, LLC).

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"...Endorsing Entrepreneurial Possibilities."