



Commentary:

The third in a series of stories that uses a number of familiar characters, this story looks heavily at the lifestyle lead by many of our group. The writer highlights the character's behaviour in a **repetitious pattern** of poor choices and **social influence**. This story also examines the character's relationship with the police and authority, alongside their motive to continue to commit further offences.

Life Struggle

By J.T.

October/7/2017

There was this kid name Lil Jay. He was a smart kid in school he did his work, but Jay was a totally different kid outside of school, he got in trouble a lot. But this is where it really started.

Jay was at school and he was getting tired of just sitting around so he called his man T.

“Yo bro come pick me up from school I’m trying to get out here” Jay said.

T responded “I’m on my way, boy give me 5 mins”

“Aight,” Jay responded

10 minutes later T. came and picked Jay up and they drove around Madison trying to find moves.

Jay called his lil man’s Vante and they went to scoop him. Vante got in and said, “Let’s go scoop some females.”

Jay responded, “I got mine, go by Stop and Go.” So Jay texted his female Brina and she went to Stop and Go and they scooped her, then they went to the mall then T and Vante went in to H&M and it was just Jay and Brina.

Alone now Jay made his move and started kissing Brina and then he got to going to the next

step, but Vante came back to the car screaming "IT'S HOT OVER HERE!"

Quickly T. got back in the driver seat and drove to Woodmans. When T. went inside Jay got in the driver seat and started driving around. He was driving around like for 5 mins when he tried to park and hit another car. Then '12' pulled up and they all ran across the street.

Jay told Brina to run the other way and she got away and when Jay was finna run he remembered T. was still in Woodmans, so him and Vante ran back and got T.

They ran across the street and '12' pulled up behind them and was like, "Don't u boys gotta be in the house?"

Jay said "No, its only 8:30."

So they into WENDYS and '12' followed them, but they ran out the other door across the street towards the car. They hit a lady who was out there with '12' and they continued running, but '12' caught them around the corner and Jay, T. and Vante got arrested.

'12' took them Downtown and they got they fingerprints did and '12' took them to the 2nd floor JRC.

The next day they all 3 had court. T. and Vante got out onna bracelet, but Jay was sent to shelter because it was his first offence. T's cousin D. was there too. Jay told D. that he was trying to give them 'Feet' D. dint care he said "It is whatever."

The next 3 days they planned they escape. On the 1st day they was smooth doing what they had to

do and the 2nd day they was tweaking a little like they dint care and the 3rd day they stayed in their rooms and then they tried too sneak out, but they got caught and then Jay said "He don't care no more."

He just walked out and they took off outside and got inside a garage and stole some bikes and rode them from the east side to the south side to go scoop Jay brother DeKari and then they got to checking cars.

They was walking around for about an hour and then they went to D. man's house and he had a steam and then they went back to the Southside and broke inside a bike store. The alarm went off so they all ran out and got back in the steam and outta there.

Jay, DeKari and D. dropped off, D. man's and they was on their own hitting cars, then they went to the mall and got their man's Meir. He went with them to PDQ to get some gas and DeKari said that Jay was a bitch if he don't snatch some ladies purse.

So Jay snatched it when she wasn't looking and he got a iphone and £100 which he broke bread on. Then he decided to do another and he hit and got some more cash.

Later they went to this one gas station and Jay hit this lady's car and got £200. Sitting up front Jay throw the purse in the back and DeKari picked the purse up and he got £50 out and then Jay was like "No boa that's mine" and DeKari was like "Boy I found it"

“F, it” Jay decided to go hit it again. Jackpot this time he got £300 out and then they went to the mall.

Jay texted Brina to come get this money and she said she couldn’t, but were they still planning on throwing a party. Eventually DeKari and Jay said lets go because he feeling like something gone happen, but Jay was like “Chill.”

About 5 minutes later they were in the mall sitting down and ‘12’ saw them and started chasing them. Jay run with DeKari and Meir, when they made it outside more ‘12s’ parked up saw them and started chasing DeKari and Meir, but Jay went another way. Jay knew if he got caught with that money its gone be over with him so he throw the wallet in another direction. Then ‘12’ was still chasing Jay when he got this hard pain in his chest and he was tired of running he stopped.

“Get on the ground,” the officer said as Jay stood was still waiting for them to put him in hand cuffs, but instead they slammed him on the ground.

Jay was on the ground screaming as ‘12,’ put him in the cuffs. When he hit the ground he felt a hard stab in his stomach. After they put him in the car about 5 minutes later he heard over the radio they caught DeKari and Meir.

So they all got taken to the station and ‘12’ tried to get their statements, but Jay said he don’t wanna talk to them. DeKari said the same thing then Meir said the same thing and about 90 minutes later they took them downtown to JRC and they got their fingerprints and they took to them 2nd floor.

They was in the holding cell for about an hour when a member of staff came and asked Jay too give him his clothes off his body then take a shower. Jay did and the water was so cold. Jay put on his clothes and then and they told him to sit down so they could ask him some questions.

They gave him a bunch of stuff to sign and they read him the rules before giving him something to eat. He ate a peanut butter and jam sandwich. When he was done they took him too his cell and Jay went to sleep.

He woke up about hour later and since he had court the staff made him stay out and read on until it was time to go. At court he told his attorney that he wanted to be on a bracelet. Luckily Jay got out and they sent him home.

When Jay got home he went to sleep. He woke up about 3 hours later and saw 2 new texts. It was DeKari and Meir who were saying they were out on a bracelet. Jay replied back *'I'm on the same thing my boy.'*

When Jay's mom heard she was in his face and he told her he was gonna get right and do better. But Jay was smoking still and his mom was getting mad and stuff and he wasn't really listening.

One day Jay went to school and he was in woodwork class a cutting board and somebody called his name. He turned around and his fingertips got caught in the machine. Jay looked at his fingertips and they was gone and blood was everywhere. Jay started screaming and the staff

from the school tried to calm Jay down. He went into shock and ran off and the staff chased and stopped him. An ambulance was called and they tried to stick a needle in Jay's fingers talking about, "It's gone stop the pain a little."

Jay was not falling for it, so he said, "No!"

They drove to the hospital and Jay was in the back crying his fingers felt like somebody was stabbing them back to back. When he got to the hospital his mom and them showed up about 5 minutes later. She started screaming and Jay's dad got in, then Jay told them the story and his mom started crying more.

When Jay was off the meds he had to use the bathroom and his mom took him. When he got back the doctor come and gave Jay a date for he got surgery and they let him go home, but Jay was confused because his fingertips was still open.

When he got home he called his female and she came right away and she was taking care of him for the whole week she even skipped school to go with him to his doctor's appointment. When he got his fingers stitched after a couple of days his fingers started hurting and Jay tried to take pills, but they wasn't working. Jay was also at home because he was out of school because of the injury. So while Jay was at home he would rest his hand on a pillow and be on his phone because the pillow would make his hand feel good a little.

November/1/2017

Wake up Jay get up now and get ready for school. "I am, I am said Jay."

He gets up picks out his clothes and goes in the bathroom take off his shirt and cloths and get in the shower. When he turn on the water it felt like '*Ice Bucket Challenge*,' Jay backed up and all most fell when he felt that breeze, but it warmed up fast and he take his shower. He gets out dries his body, put on his clothes then shoes. He grabs his bus card, ID and runs out the door. He run to the bus stop when he get there the bus is right there. He hurries up and makes it. When he gets on everybody is on the bus, he swipe his bus card and go to the back and he shakes the guys hand and sits down putting his head phones on and plays his music.

When Jay gets to school, he goes to chop it up with the females and gets his breakfast, then sits down to eat. The bell rings so Jay goes to class and do what he got to do. He takes a little nap when he wake up it's the end of the class and the bell rings. Jay gets up, puts his work in his book bag and he go to the cafeteria and chops it up with the guys for a good two minutes and then goes to the next class just to chill. Then Jay had study hall so instead he got on his phone and texted Brina. He got on the phone with her and had a conversation for the whole class period. At 3rd period Jay had the class he hated the most, English with Ms. Garrison when Jay get in the room she already on ass talking

about 'You're late Jay,' but Jay just walked passed and sat down. He put his head down to go to sleep till next period and wake up when he heard the bell.

He walked to the gym and turn up hooping and that go by fast. Now its lunch that's when Jay's P.O. Jeff showed up. Jeff asked to talk to Jay and told Jay he had to go back to JRC.

Jay hated that place and said "No that shit is DEAD!"

So Jeff said, "So what u gone do?"

"You gone see," Jay replied.

He started texting his man's Nate and tell him come scoop him up. Nate said he was on his way. About 5 minutes later, Nate scoop Jay and took him too his crib. They just smoked and then Jay said, "Since I'm on the run, we out here?" Then Jay asked Nate "What you on?"

Nate say he got to scoop his female and Jay say "ight we gone, but I got to get my money from the crib, but my dad there so let's wait till later."

Later Jay got to checking cars. After 30 minutes Jay hollered Nate he found a 2017 Kia with the key inside. Nate get the key and pull out the drive way and Jay and they went they went to scoop Nate's female at West High School.

Nate female got in "Yeah!" He shouted "We out here!" and they drive back to Nate girlfriend crib and clean the car. They went to her house and chilled and then Jay told them he trying to snatch a purse and Nate say, "It's too late for that boa."

Jay say "ight."

The NEXT morning Jay snatch a purse and got £200 and then Jay went to go get some *killa* then he get a text message saying the guys finna have a party. Jay text back and said he going to the mall.

Jay went to get a shirt made and grab some shoes and they went to the party and Jay still had some *killa* left over. When they got to the party it there was a few females there and they was all around Lil Jay and he told them he got a female and they backed off. Then Jay tell Nate and them that the party is DEAD and Nate and his female agreed, so Jay said he gone and walked out together.

Dekari was chilling outside in a car and Jay went to the car and see his other man's Shawno was in there. Then DeKari tell Jay he got some *killa* and Jay say he got some too. Then Dekari tell Jay "Yo lets go scoop up Doni."

Doni was Nate's little brother and Jay say "Yea." They scoop Doni, but he had his own '*traffic*' and they was '*3 Deep*' and went to the Southside to race.

Jay won and then they went to go get something to eat. Jay tell them, "What they on?"

That was when KB came from DeKari car and was like "Bro can I slide?"

"Yea," Lil Jay say and KB got in.

Lil Jay and KB went to go get a 8th. They hanged out all night. Then the next day and they *face* and linked with Dekari again and they really started sliding.

It was about 11:30 am and DeKari said he finna go to the crib and Jay said, "ight."

They slide to Lameria's and they was over there with females and the guys. They chilled for a while then was on the move again. They was driving around and was low on gas so the pulled into the gas station. Jay was on snatching purses and then while they was in the gas station '12' pulled in.

Jay and KB and Jay little brother pulled out, but '12' looked in the car and they saw KB and KB drove off fast. He drove by Marcus Theater towards the mall and '12' was surrounding the whole mall.

Quick KB drove off and '12' was chasing them and it was there was traffic to so KB was slowing down and Jay told him cut through the parking lot and he did and they got away.

Then they drove down the street and Jay said we got to park and walk too Marqell's house and when they was walking up a lady pulled up and took a picture of them and Jay said "Run back to the car."

When they got to the car a Black Ford pulled in front of the car so they couldn't pull out. They tried to run and while they was running they heard "MADISON POLICE STOP!" but they kept running and hopped a gate and the police said, "WE GOT THEM BOYS!"

Jay looked ahead and they were trapped so he throw everything out his pockets and then he stopped and they tackled him.

Jay little brother Dekari and KB kept running so they put Jay in the police car and Jay heard on the radio that they caught them. Later they took them to the police station again and then they asked Jay, "How did you get the car?"

Jay said, "I don't have shit to tell you!"

Then '12' asked for Dekari and KB statements who said they dint wanna talk to them either.

'12' smiled and say "Looks like they all want to go JRC."

Since it was Dekari first case he got out the next day and KB got out 2 weeks later and they made Jay do 7 months. Jay got out on April 19th 2018.

When Jay finally got out he was doing what he had to do. He was put on a bracelet and supervision for a year.

3 days later all the females was on his meat and Lil Jay was having fun being out. Everybody missed him he could tell. Brina came to chill at his house Jay was with her basically everyday.

Then Jay was at home one day and Brina called him and tell him she have something to tell him and she said he was a father.

Jay felt his heart pounding so hard and Jay was thinking about what she said and he was thinking about what if he go back again. So Jay promised his self he will never go back, BUT I DON'T THINK GOD OR HIS SELF HEARD THAT PROMISE JUST THE DEVIL HEARD IT.

A week later Lil Jay was at school and it was lunch and one of Jay man's said he was finna crack this boy because he talk too much and they got too fighting. Jay, Shawno and Nate's lil brother Doni jumped in and this other dude's friend tried too to jump in and Shawn told him to back up and he said "Wassup?" and this kid ran and trucked dude.

Shawno grabbed him and throw him on the floor and Lil Jay kicked him in the face and punched him in the head and Shawn was punching him too.

Then the school police came outside and said "Move away Jay," and Lil Jay dropped dude and the police said "You're going in cuffs."

The officer grabbed Jay and he pulled away and ran. Doni ran with him and Shawno did too and then they went to Culvers and they waited there. They saw everybody at the mall across the street so they ran across the street then they saw Nate and them. Nate asked what happened and Jay told them the story. Then Nate asked if we had *'traffic'*

"Yeah we got one" Doni said but and told Nate he need to drive. Nate was tweaking because his knee was messed up, but he said yeah after a minute. So they caught the bus to Falk school, that's where the car was and they all got in.

Later they found some moves and they went to go scoop they man's Yah-Yah and check some cars. Yah-Yah told Lil Jay to go check that car and he did and then they told him to check this one car and then he came back with a book bag and he throw it and money fell out and Jay took half of it off the floor and then he broke bread and then went to go get a *Zip* and they all went to get a cut and faced.

MAY/8/2018

Today is the day Lil Jay decided to go home but, he was thinking should he go? When he got there he

was talking to his my mom and she was crying. Talking about, "Do you care about me Jay?"

Jay was like "Yes mom."

She was like "Why do you do the stuff you do?"

He told her "I try every day to do what's right, but I guess right is not for me."

Then she called Jay's P.O. and he said "It was ok to stay there." Jay had stayed at home since the fight at school so he went to his room and went sleep. When he woke up his mum called him downstairs. She told him she had a call from the principal of his school. She told Lil Jay the principal said since he dropped dude Jay was suspended for 2 days, but could come back Friday.

Jay said "ight,"

He went back upstairs and Dekari his little brother was at the window talking about, "Come on they said yo P.O. lying."

Jay wasn't sure "I don't know Gee" he said he was thinking his little brother was lying, but he went anyway. But this time Lil Jay knew he messed up.

They drove the car and pull up to Nate's crib. They had a smoke then we left soon after because Nate had to go the hospital. They decided to txt Yah-Yah who say come scoop him at West. After they scoop his other man's Danny and his lil cuz Kam near McDonalds, but when they turn the corner '12' was parked and they turned into a parking lot and got out and started walking to McDonalds.

They were talking and stuff and across the road they could see people pointing to the car. Jay the other run across the street and then '12' pull up to

McDonald, quickly they jumped on the bus, but '12' saw them and then he started following the bus. When the bus made a stop '12' drove in front the bus. The officer got out his car and told and he asked them where they were coming from. Then he asked for their names. They all gave fake names but the '12' recognised Lil and arrested them.

He took them back to the parking lot then they had them wait there for 2 hours and then they let everyone out the hand cuffs. Lil Jay was thinking its finna happen to him but they searched his real name and found he was reported missing and if found to be returned to JRC. So they took Jay and when he got to JRC all the staff was surprised to see him. The next day he had court and his social working came to see him. She said that Lil brother had lied to him. When Jay heard that he felt a vibration in his body. When he got to his room he sat down. Looking at the wall he had so much anger in his body he couldn't take it no more. The staff came to his room and told him he had a call. It was his mom and she told him he should have listened to her.

Lil Jay said, "I'm sorry mom, now I'm here and everybody else is out."

Lil Jay just started crying because he knew his mom right, but EVERYBODY LEARN FROM THERE MISTAKES.

This story was written by I wrote this story for the kids that are getting locked up or getting in the

system this is not for you. And all your “FRIENDS” are not going to do the time for you and it’s time to make a change.

