

### A Felon on the Run

by Nash Hasan

A flight risk  
 An inmate in a bulletproof vest  
 Refusing to consent  
 Determined to contest  
 All of the charges and arrest

Travelling,  
 Night by night  
 Underneath  
 The stars and moonlight

Camouflaged  
 In blue jeans and a baseball cap  
 Helping him  
 Appear and disappear  
 Quickly into the crowds

Entertaining, at people gatherings  
 In small towns and camp grounds  
 Singing them songs  
 Of a young man he met along his travelling

Appearing innocent and calm  
 Not posing him any harm  
 Yet, seemingly wary  
 Of anyone befriended him

Most of those whom he trusted  
 Were informants  
 Trying to rob him before he got busted

A felon on the run  
 Trusting of no one  
 Polite and bright  
 Despite,  
 His cold-hardened heart  
 Tiny built and small  
 Yet, mighty ruthless in a brawl  
 Hungry and lean  
 A runaway teen  
 Breaking into vending machines  
 For candy to eat  
 And coins to keep

A rocky start at thirteen  
 A savvy hustler by sixteen  
 He made lots of money  
 But lost it quickly in a hurry  
 As he began falling  
 Into vicious cycles  
 Of fines and crimes  
 Hardly worth him serving time  
 Skipping his hearings  
 Neglecting court sentencing  
 Violating parole instructions  
 Getting caught with possession  
 Not giving a damn about anything  
 Cause, he already had lost everything  
 Surrendering to suicidal thoughts  
 Trusting there is no way out  
 Crying out loud

"What this fuck is it all about?"  
 Nobody gave a damn  
 About my sorry ass  
 As a homeless child in Burbank  
 Or living on the streets  
 Of Portland's felony flats

Many inmates in jails or prisons  
 Or out on the streets living  
 Became convicted felons  
 Before they were twenty-one  
 Born bruised  
 Raised abused  
 Grew up confused  
 Addicted to drugs and booze  
 Ended up making the news  
 As convicts of no use  
 Addressing the problems  
 Of felons and felonies  
 By the voting majority  
 Is a sign of insanity  
 The dilemma in reality  
 To the formula of morality  
 Is lacking parental liability  
 And societal accountability

Creating together laws for crime  
 Adding more jail cells for time  
 Is, in itself, a despicable crime  
 Building more jail space

Instead of schools in the first place  
 Is a disgrace to the human race

All talks and laws  
 Jail cells and walls  
 Won't fix a damn thing at all  
 The failure of one  
 Is due to the failure of many

Ending his story  
 With a sad tone in his voice  
 Saying it with a sigh of relief

I am an outlaw, not a felon  
 I am a drug user, not a murderer  
 I am a victim, not a criminal

It has been a long time coming  
 For the showdown to begin  
 In hunting me down  
 With K9 officers and guns  
 I am tired of being on the run  
 I'm done.

Reprinted with permission from Nash Hasan's book, Diamonds in the Rough: The Youth of America"

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- Check your eligibility
- Enroll you in Medicaid or Medicare
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#### BEAVERTON CITY LIBRARY

12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton  
June 08..... 1:30-3:30pm

#### BUD CLARK COMMONS

665 NW Hoyt Ave, Portland  
June 07..... 8-10 a.m.  
June 28..... 8-10 a.m.

#### CAREOREGON

315 SW Fifth Ave, Portland  
June 01..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 06..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 08..... noon-1pm  
June 13..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 15..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 20..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 22..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 27..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
June 29..... 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### CITY TEAM

526 SE Grand Ave, Portland  
June 14..... 8-10 a.m.

#### CLACKAMAS COUNTY TRANSITION CENTER

2219 Kaen Rd, Oregon City  
June 21..... 1-3 p.m.

#### CLACKAMAS SERVICE CENTER

8800 SE 80th Ave, Portland  
June 27..... 1-4 p.m.

#### ESTACADA FOOD BANK

272 S Broadway St, Estacada  
June 09..... 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### MY FATHER'S HOUSE

6/5/17..... 1:30-3:30 p.m.

#### PORTLAND OPEN BIBLE COMMUNITY PANTRY

3223 SE 92nd Ave, Portland  
June 15..... 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland  
June 01..... 8-10 a.m.  
June 08..... 8-10 a.m.  
June 15..... 8-10 a.m.  
June 22..... 8-10 a.m.  
June 29..... 8-10 a.m.

#### STREET ROOTS

211 NW Davis St, Portland  
June 13..... 8-10 a.m.

#### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland  
June 20..... 2-4 p.m.  
June 27..... 2-4 p.m.

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503-416-4883

