

*Lessons of Redemption #DoRight*

By Morgan Amos

Author Kevin Shird shares the real-life experience of his ability to transform his life from a drug trafficker in the streets of Baltimore, Maryland to that of an upstanding citizen, one who's learned his lessons and has decided to share them with the public in his poignant tale, *Lessons of Redemption #DoRight*. This memoir provides an often too familiar story of a young black kid growing up in a loving but at times troublesome living environment, becoming intrigued by outside influences, and the choices he makes often resulting in a ripple effect, effecting not only his life, but those around him, and ultimately the moment when he decides to positively change his life.

"Eventually, the allure of the streets became too strong. With no father around to set me straight, the streets became a major player in my life. The tug of war between what was right and what was wrong became overwhelming. Was it the abuse, the poverty, or the low self-esteem that made the kid vulnerable to the streets?" Shird writes. At times, *Lessons of Redemption #DoRight* reads like scenes out of a movie as Shird pens this honest account of what it was like for him selling drugs on the Baltimore streets, having spent 11 years in prison, to the heartfelt letter he writes his daughter, and finally the understanding that despite some of the choices he's made, there's still room for improvement, for redemption.

It was those decisions to sell drugs, the time spent in prison, the time spent away from his loved ones that made Shird realize he needed to change his circumstances because if not, it would be time spent in prison again or worse, deceased. "I had spent over 4500 days in prison. Like sand in the palm of my hand, the grains of life had slowly began to slip away. I had missed out on a lot of opportunities which I will never get to experience again. The things every man experiences, like being married and raising kids, and having a work history; I never really thought about these things much in the past, but now I was wondering how I could have ever let them pass me by," he states.

While Kevin Shird's story might sound familiar, his ability to change his circumstances and his surroundings makes his story worth reading. He made the decision to not become another statistic, to not be looked down upon for the past mistakes he's made, but instead to utilize his new found independence and knowledge to become president of Mario Do Right Foundation, along with his previous work at the Center for Urban Families, and more. "I hope my story can deter someone else from going down this unforgiving highway to nowhere. If a million people were to read this book and it only changed the life of one young soul, I could claim a small amount of success," he states. *Lessons of Redemption #DoRight* takes you on a journey through the ups and downs of one man's life while proving it's never too late to regain your individuality and start your life anew.