

Lloyd Banks
Diving Back Into
the Mainstream



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Street Author

Seth Ferranti

At A Young Age He Was Locked Up While In Prison He Became A Writer and A New Voice Of the Streets

ost authors' careers do not begin from a jail cell but for urban book writers like Seth Ferranti that's not unusual. Seth has written some of the most interesting biographies on urban gangsters through his Street Legend's series. The series documents the lives of urban legends such as Supreme, Frank Matthews and Wayne "Silk" Perry. "I try to write the story from the convict's point of view. I go through the court records and get my wife to do some research. Sometimes I've been fortunate enough to be with the people I'm talking about but if not I have been with a lot of their co-defendants or relatives. I try to get close to the source that I'm writing about and then put it all together in an unbiased way. The mainstream media just does what the prosecutors say. That's what they print. They take the prosecutors line of attack. So I try to give the flip side of it."

Seth first started writing for the sports pages in the jail paper. "They have intermediate sports leagues

and I was helping to manage them in '93. We were doing sports papers. We was talking about people playing basketball and I was doing the sports report. I did that at three different prisons. That's how I got hooked up with Don Diva Magazine because they saw my stories about a guy from Harlem named Ron Jordan who was scoring sixty points a game. Some dudes from Harlem approached me and said my homeboy Kevin is starting a magazine and we want you to write some pieces about this guy Ron Jordan for the magazine. That is how I got the whole connection started." At the same time he started writing his first book Prison Stories." Prison Stories was a fictional story about life in prison. While writing for Don Diva and F.E.D.S., Seth noticed that he always have a lot of material left over. "Through my research I had a lot of stuff left over because the magazine only has so much space. I saw books on the mafia guys but I didn't really see any books on the urban guys. So I said I can do the same thing for the crack era guys, the black and Latino dudes like an extension of what Don Diva and F.E.D.S. is doing but in a book."

Being locked up while writing his Street Legend series appears to have benefitted Seth. Some of his material comes straight from the sources mouth. "I was with Supreme in Gilmore for two years before he went back to court on the Murder Inc. indictment. I was with him for the two years he was doing time on a gun charge in Baltimore. I was with him before he went back for the Murder Inc case. The Supreme piece for Don Diva I wrote with his blessing. He and Wayne Perry are in Street Legends Vol I. I hooked up with Wayne Perry's little guy



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who was doing life for second-degree murder." The names just continue to pour out. They're the names that build his street credibility. "I was in Fairton with Peanut King from Baltimore and The Short North Posse from Columbus, Ohio. I was in with a lot of dudes on that case in Gilmore. You know Wahida Clark the big urban lit writer. She New

did ten years, too. The World who were some Islamic bank robbers were her people from Newark, New Jersey." Their story in Street Legends Vol II and fellow urban writer Vickie Stringer also appears in an interesting story.

From ages sixteen to twenty, Seth sold

colleges on the east coast. Incarcerated by the age of twenty-two he has spent about half his life in prison. has been in the F.E.D.S. since '93 on a twenty-five year sentence. With the release of his three titles Prison Sto-Street Legends Vol I and Vol II, Seth plans to continue writing

and become a full time writer once released. "I'm trying to set something up for when I come home. Hopefully, I do a book a year so that when I step out I can step into something."

