

SUBURBAN JUNKY

From Honor Roll to Heroin Addict

By Jude Hassan

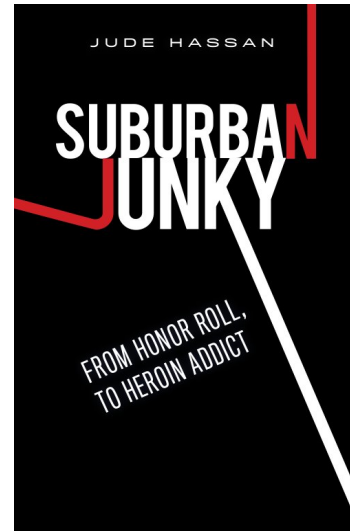
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FORMER ADDICT WRITES CANDID MEMOIR ON THE DEVESTATION OF HEROIN ADDICTION

An estimated 156,000 people per year try heroin, most of them are under the age of 26 and relative newbies to drugs. The rate of heroin-related overdose deaths increased 286 percent between 2002 and 2013. The stories of those within these jaw-dropping numbers are the tether needed to wrap our collective minds around this problem. Author Jude Hassan's memoir, ***Suburban Junky: From Honor Roll to Heroin Addict***, is a personal account of his journey from a smart, well-loved kid with great potential to a fear-filled junkie and how he found his way back.

In ***Suburban Junky***, Hassan was the last kid anyone would imagine a junkie. He had loving and attentive parents, was an honor roll student, his father was a drug counselor; he knew all he was supposed to know. When his family moved to the suburbs just in time for freshman year, Hassan was lonelier than ever, shy and eating lunch alone. When a boy his age approached him and offered him drugs, it was all it took. Though he knew better and had all the tools to resist, his desire to make friends corrupted his judgment.

Hassan quickly went from smoking pot to experimenting with other drugs, inevitably landing on heroin. It took an enforced detox in a jail cell and his father's cancer to give him the will to climb out of the deep, dark hole he'd lived in for six years.

Preaching doesn't work with kids, personal experiences related sincerely does. ***Suburban Junky*** does that in spades. Hassan, now 31 years-old, writes in an honest and emotional voice. If read and shared early on in a teen's life it is a force that may well make a dent in the staggering ranks of adolescent drug users.



About the Author: Jude Hassan and his wife, Rachel, founded Suburban Junky, Inc., a St. Louis-based nonprofit organization dedicated to educating teenagers on the perils of drug use. Hassan, in addition to working at a treatment center in St. Louis, travels around the country inspiring teens with his story.

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