



PRESS RELEASE

FORMER ADDICT WRITES CANDID MEMOIR ON THE DEVESTATION OF HEROIN ADDICTION

It's nearly impossible to turn on the television today without hearing about the opioid crisis gripping our nation with devastating force. Among the hardest hit are middle- and upper-class teens. In states like New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and many others, opioid-related deaths have nearly quadrupled over the past decade. Behind these staggering statistics are real lives and real stories, stories that help us grasp the true scale of this epidemic.

One such story is found in author Jude Hassan's memoir, *Suburban Junky: From Honor Roll to Heroin Addict*. Hassan shares his harrowing journey from a bright, well-loved teenager with limitless potential to a terrified addict willing to do anything to satisfy an unrelenting dependence on opiates.

Hassan was the last person anyone would have expected to become addicted. He had supportive parents, earned a spot on the honor roll, and grew up with a father who worked as a drug counselor. He knew all the warnings. But when his family moved to the suburbs just before his freshman year, Hassan found himself lonely, shy, and painfully vulnerable. So when a classmate offered him a hit of weed, he said yes. Even though he knew better, and had every reason to walk away, his need to belong drowned out his judgment and pushed him onto a path he never imagined taking.

What began with marijuana quickly escalated to harder substances, eventually leading him to heroin. It wasn't until a forced detox in a jail cell and the heartbreak of his father's cancer diagnosis that Hassan found the strength to claw his way out of the darkness that consumed multiple years of his life.

Preaching at teenagers rarely works—but honest, lived experience can. *Suburban Junky* delivers that in abundance. Now in his thirties, Hassan writes with a raw, emotional transparency that resonates deeply. Shared early and often, his story has the power to reach teens before they become part of the statistics—and maybe even change the trajectory of a life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Jude Hassan was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and lives there to this day with his wife, Rachel, and son. Jude published his memoir, *Suburban Junky: From Honor Roll to Heroin Addict*, following the loss of his dear friend to addiction.

Suburban Junky: From Honor Roll to Heroin Addict

By Jude Hassan

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Student Study Guide Included

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