

My name is Maisha Durham, I'll not try to pique your interest with a Woe is me introduction. I want to attract you with a Welcome me introduction. Welcome my thought process, my emotions, my pains, and joys, my aspirations. I'm in search of edification as well as an opportunity to edify. I'm an up and coming author, who will not hesitate to share my experiences with you. I'm one to admit I'm not perfect and I have many flaws that I need to correct, yet I'm not the same person I was at the beginning of my incarceration. I've grown in many areas, and evolved in my mental state. I'm open-minded and very ambitious. I believe that the only thing that can hold me captive is my mind set. Therefore I refuse to close my mind to new and innovative things. I would like a friend who is of the same mind set. To contact me write me at Maisha Durham 777587 Pulaski State Prison P.O. Box 839 Hawkinsville, Ga. 31036 or register to email me by going to [www.jpays.com](http://www.jpays.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

# IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

(Testimony) - By: Maisha, Hawkinsville, GA

## **Jeremiah 18:3-6**

These verses touched me, and caused me to reevaluate my perception of my self-worth. I allowed my past to mar the way I viewed myself, what I saw.

How did I become that marred pot? The first seam came at the age of eight when I was molested by my neighbor. It grew at the age of fourteen when I was snatched in a trailer and almost raped by another neighbor. It became wider when I was lied on and no one would listen to or believe me. The crack got deeper when I felt like no one cared and I sought release in many different sexual encounters; opening myself up because I thought that it was a form of love. Eventually the crack went so deep that it seemed all hope was lost and I gave up and allowed myself to be battered and abused because I felt I deserved it. I was damaged, incompetent, unwanted, dirty, weak, worthless, unlovable and hopeless. I stayed in this state of unrest for many years. I would tell myself and others I was fine, nothing was wrong. I didn't talk about it because I felt ashamed and embarrassed and thought something was wrong with me. I didn't want to come off as weak or vulnerable. I blamed everyone else for my problems. I didn't need any help, I could and would make it through on my own. It was nothing anyone could do anyway. God allowed it to happen because he didn't care.

I was that marred pot that some would deem unworthy of any attention or affection, and thrown in the trash. However, God had his hands on me, and is continuing a mighty work in me. I saw shattered places in my mind and soul. I felt hopeless, as if I had no purpose. The events in my life marred my perception of life and God's love for me. I have been battered and abused, yes, but not just by others; I played a part in what my life turned out to be. I tried to fill the crack that existed with things that just seeped through and leaked out to affect not just myself but those who were around me. I wouldn't allow God to shape me into what he intended me to be. I rejected the people and words he sent to mold me, so I crumbled, because I was brittle with bitterness, hard from hatred, lost in lust, dumb with doubt, imperfect because of impatience, and so full of stubbornness that I was stupid. I didn't allow the ingredients of love, joy, peace, kindness, longsuffering, gentleness, and forgiveness to seep into my spirit in order to shape me into who God was calling me to be. Through it all God kept his hands on me, even in all my mess. He showed me grace, mercy, patience, love, and forgiveness.

During this time of trial and tribulation I have been broken and reshaped. Things have caused me to focus on God and not what I've been through. Focusing on the past only made me feel worse, it was like a poison. I pushed people away that I needed the most. I realized that if I didn't refocus I would never mend my spirit or my mind. I had to let go. I had to be truthful to myself and change my attitude. I have learned some hard and painful lessons that I will hold on to. My life may not be the best and I have suffered some hurts that run deep, but I refuse to remain in that life. I have had a breakthrough that has renewed my mind and cleansed my heart. It has been a very humbling experience to say the least. I had to call on God and seek him to be who I needed him to be in my situation. I had been overwhelmed and shattered and didn't know how to pray. Even if I did I wouldn't know where to begin. God knew what I needed and drew me into his hands to begin shaping me into the vessel he had planned for me to be all along. I had to remove my own hands and allow him to form me as a potter forms his clay into a beautiful and priceless vessel.

## "New-Life"

D. Blake

### TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

This message is for the sons and daughters of God currently being held captive. I'm writing to encourage and declare the power and anointing within the Word of God to set you free! Glory to God!

While praying in the Holy Spirit, I received this revelation: "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, we are Abraham's descendants and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say; 'You will be made free'? Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits a sin is a slave to sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever; but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the SON makes you free, you shall be free indeed.' [John 8:32-35]

After close examination of this scripture I discovered that there are two different Greek words used in this passage to convey freedom. The first one is spiritual freedom, exempt from more liability, basically free from sins debt, because Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. The second is a physical freedom; meaning free as citizens and not slaves.

Jesus explained that knowledge of the truth will make them free from the power of sin. Their response was; they have always been free citizens. Jesus, again explained, that they were slaves of sin...

#### **The revelation is two – fold:**

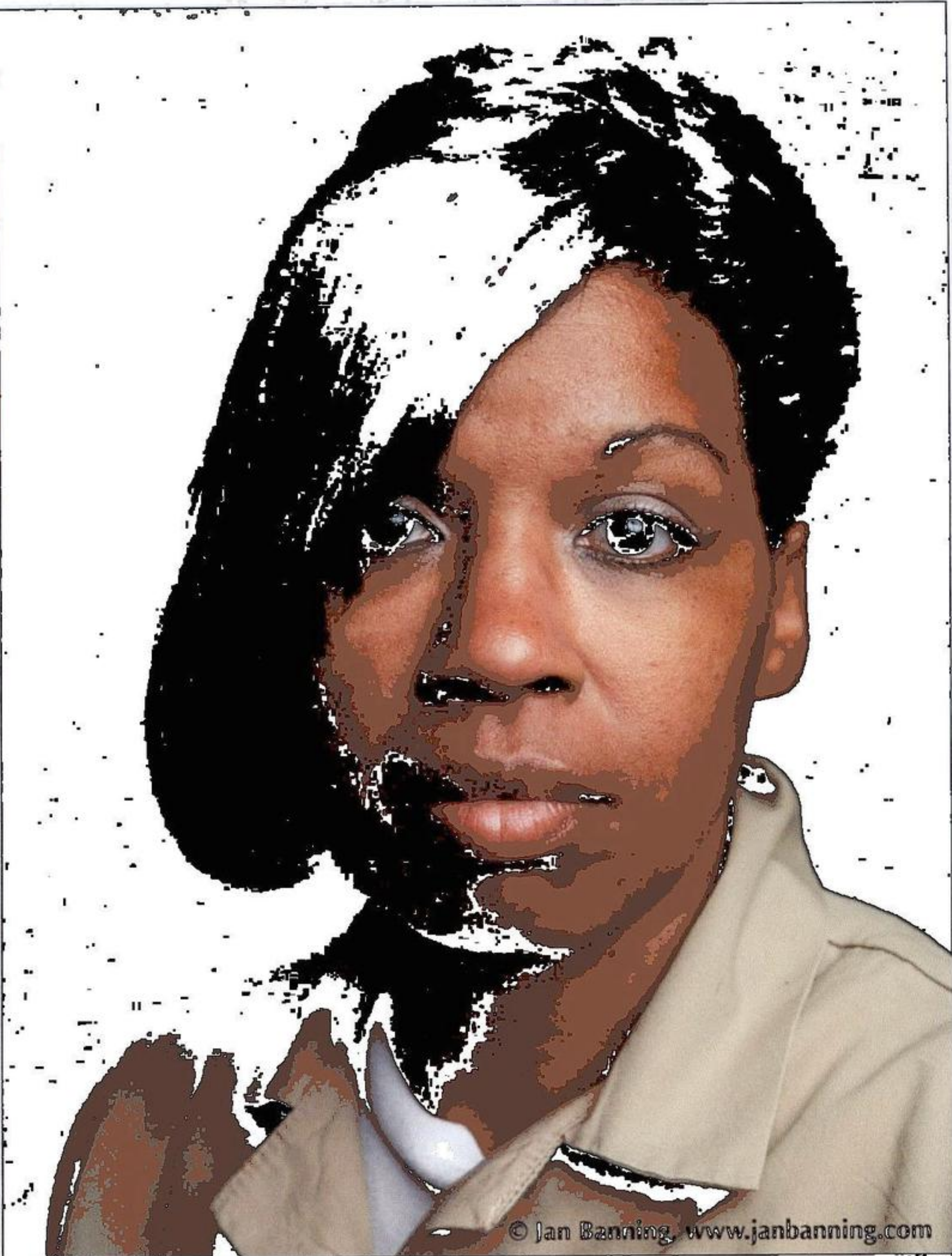
1. Once we truly realize and understand that we are free from sin we will experience freedom from every other type of bondage! All bondage is the result of sin. No sin equals no bondage. As born again believers we must see ourselves as being free from sin. Amen. Freedom from sin must become our reality. It requires a new mind set. It does not mean that I won't stumble again, but each day, I wake up with a mindset to walk above sin. **I purposely raise the bar and set the mark high in Christ.** As we do this we will find the glorious liberty of Jesus manifesting in every part of our life.
2. Jesus makes a brief but profound comparison between slaves and sons. A slave cannot experience freedom as long as he sees himself as a slave. His very own mentality and nature will invite bondage. He is held captive by his own ideal. Many Christians still see themselves as slaves to sin, sinners saved by Grace and beggars, but we are sons and daughters of God! We are citizens of God's Kingdom with a legal and divine right to be free! As sons and daughters we have authority over bondage. "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage, again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out "Abba" Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are sons and daughters of God... and joint – Heirs with Christ..." [Romans 8:13-17] We must start seeing ourselves as sons and daughters of God, set free by the Son of God! Jesus made us free from sin, the debt of sin and the power of sin! The evil one has no grounds to keep us in bondage to anything.

Meditate on this message until it comes alive in your spirit! Until it becomes your only reality... and we shall see doors opening up together. Speak this affirmation until it comes alive in your spirit!

I, \_\_\_\_\_, know the truth. In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, I declare the truth! I am free from sin. I am a child of God. I am a joint – Heir with Christ; I therefore have a legal divine right to walk in freedom from all bondage. I demand the enemy to honor my divine right and release me immediately! Once this word comes alive in your spirit, begin praising God for manifestation. Purpose in your heart to see if in your spirit and give Glory to God!!! With God all things are possible!

Amen!

"New-Life"



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Other Titles By  
Maisha Mahalia

Poetry:

\*Thoughts of a  
Caged Butterfly

\*The World of a  
Caged Butterfly

Novels:

\*Troubled Waters

\*Come Hell or  
High Water

\*Let the Church  
Say Amen

Novels with

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\*Hidden Testimonies

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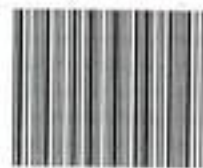
www.  
betweenthebar.  
org/blogs/1177

# Thoughts of a **CAGED** *Butterfly*

"with Grace you will find Strength, Hope, and  
Peace for your body and soul."

There are many thoughts that have brushed  
my mind and embraced my very existence. However,  
I have never expressed or shared them all. Some of  
these thoughts are reflections of how I feel, how I  
view myself, and the things I have encountered and  
endured in my life. Some of them will expose pain,  
joy, and sorrow.

An array of emotions are revealed through  
these written words. They have helped me release  
the thoughts and feelings trapped within this cage  
that is my mind. I have gained the courage and  
strength to set my thoughts free and share them  
with others. I hope they will inspire and encourage  
others to move beyond the pain, overcome and  
embrace the experiences that life will throw their  
way so they may learn and grow from them.



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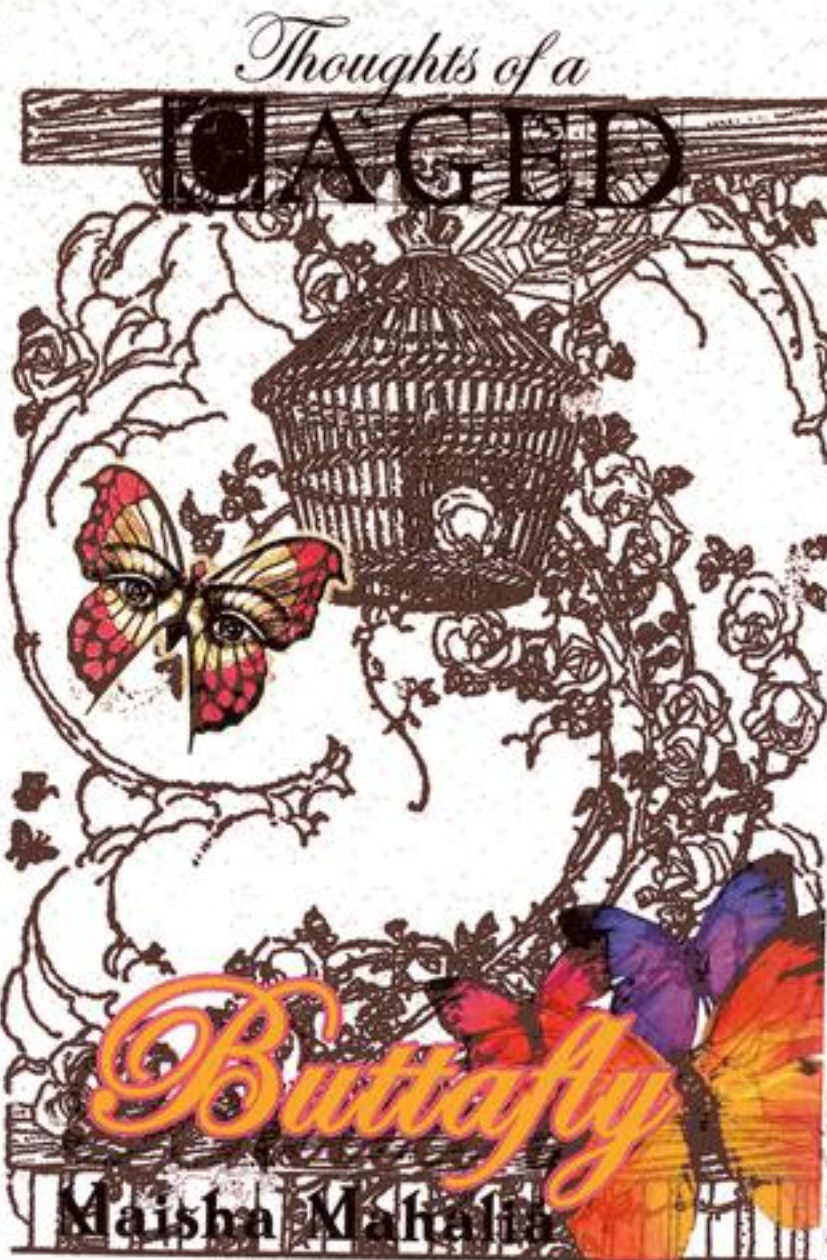


Thoughts of a Caged Butterfly

Maisha Mahalia



BTP



Maisha Mahalia  
is a lifer,  
currently  
incarcerated at  
Pulaski State  
Prison.  
Her first book  
"Thoughts of a  
Caged Butterfly"  
is a book of  
poems that  
reflect on her  
life experiences.  
Maisha's novels  
are a form of  
Hidden  
Testimonies  
that derived  
from  
experiences  
that shaped her  
life. She is the  
mother of three  
handsome  
boys, Damien,  
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# TROUBLED WATERS

Beginning at the tender age of fourteen Maija Minor seems to be destined for trouble. Her mother can not stand her, her father is too caught up in his own life to even care. Maija feels as if everyone is out to get her.

Maija endures a lot, most of it would devastate the average girl her age. Some of it is by her own doing, but most of it comes from the deep rooted issues in the lives of her family. Crown women would be hard pressed to make some of the decisions she has had to make. Yet, Maija is determined to make it through these trials and become a young woman of character.

Will Maija be able to survive the troubled waters that is her life?



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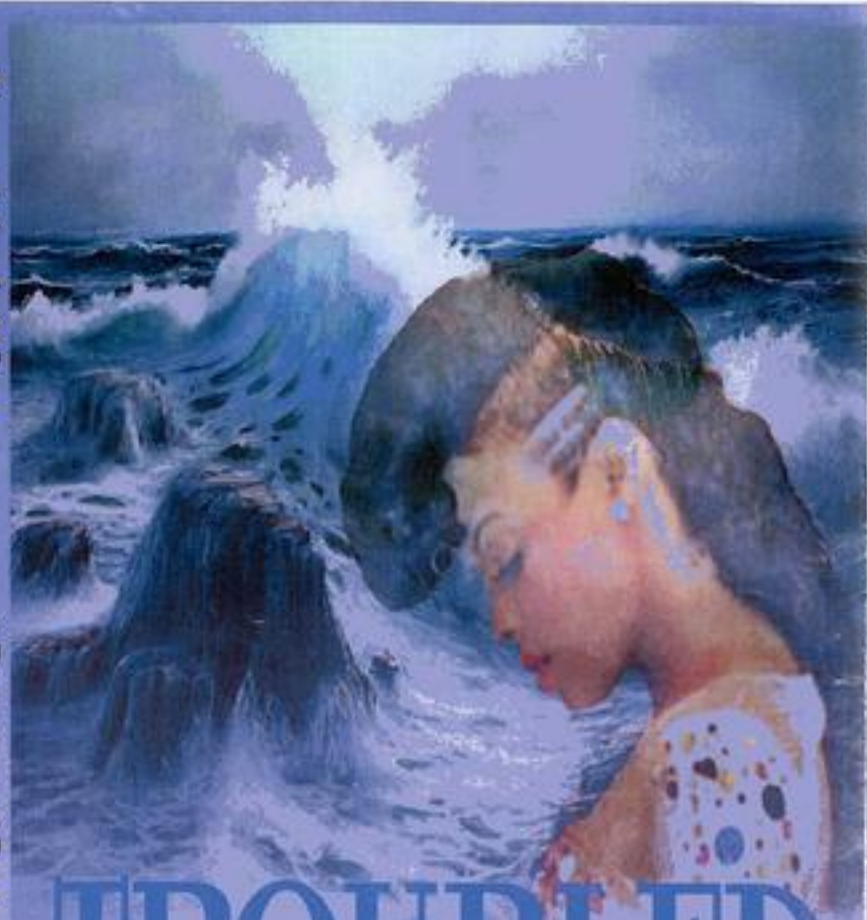


Troubled Waters

Maisha Mahalia



RJP



# TROUBLED WATERS

Maisha Mahalia

Maisha Mahalia is a lifer, currently incarcerated at Pulaski State Prison. Her first book "Thoughts of a Caged Butterfly" is a book of poems that reflect on her life experiences. Maisha's novels are a form of Hidden Testimonies that derived from experiences that shaped her life. She is the mother of three handsome boys, Damien, Makijana, and Makili. Maisha prays her writing touch at least one life, that in itself is an accomplish.

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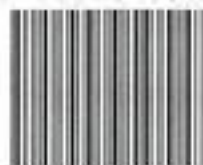
\*Hidden Testimonies

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*The*  
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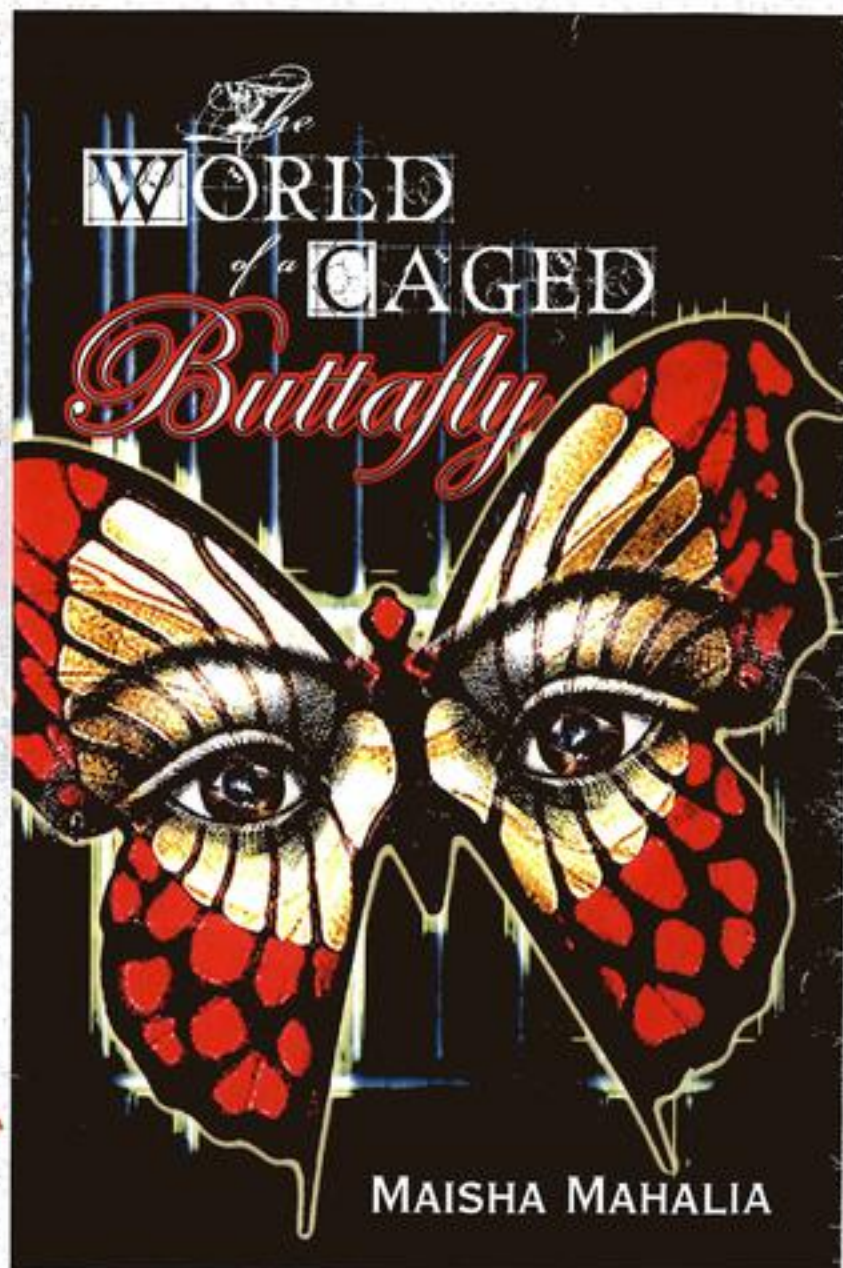
There are a number of things that have inspired this volume of poems; however the major inspiration comes from the young women I observe coming in and out of prison like it has a revolving door. I see my old self in many of them, and want to give a testimony, so to speak, and want to inspire them to choose another path. Maybe words coming from someone who has been through many of the same things and who has experienced the pain and sorrow they feel will open their eyes as well as their minds to the fact that they are not alone in the struggle to survive and overcome. Some of my poems reflect 'Life' behind these walls, and experiences that I have faced. Some are not pretty, some are sad, and some are downright hilarious. I hope they will help them choose another path and avoid the kind of life I had to live for the past sixteen years. I would rather they read about it, than live it. If my words can reach and touch just one life, I have accomplished something worthwhile.



1276048



The World of a Caged Butterfly  
Maisha Mahalia  
KJP



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# Buttafly Kisses

The written words within this book are meant to not just touch your mind, but reach your heart. Expressing everyday feelings and releasing emotions that evolved from the environment that is my world. These are raw and honest feelings that will make you say.... "Who would of thought.."

The mind is only captured when you allow it to be....releasing what's inside has helped me be free....Although my body is behind fences and bars... My mind has taken me to places so far... Reflections of intelligence drift through the pages..A buttafly's kiss is priceless, no matter where you place it.....



Buttafly  
Kisses

Maisha Mahalia



B3P

# Buttafly Kisses



Maisha  
Mahalia

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