

# THE STORIES OF PERSONALITIES

by Tom Noah Liebrand



# ONE WORLD MILLION STORIES

## The Project

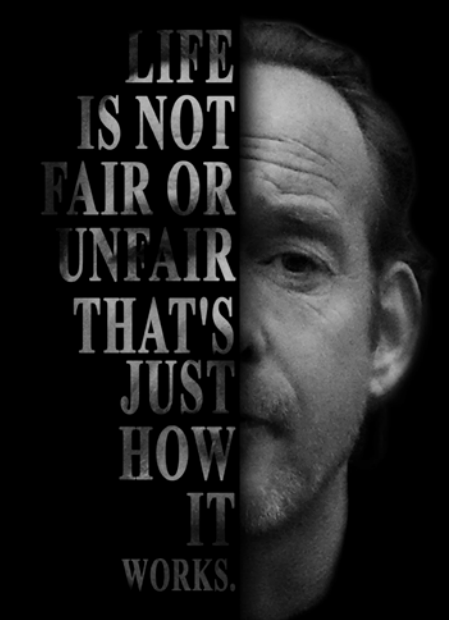
### Concept :

The heart of this project, is the belief that everyone has their own personal struggles and daily problems and we shouldn't be too judgemental about their personal situations. We should take the time to find out why they have no other option but to live on the streets.

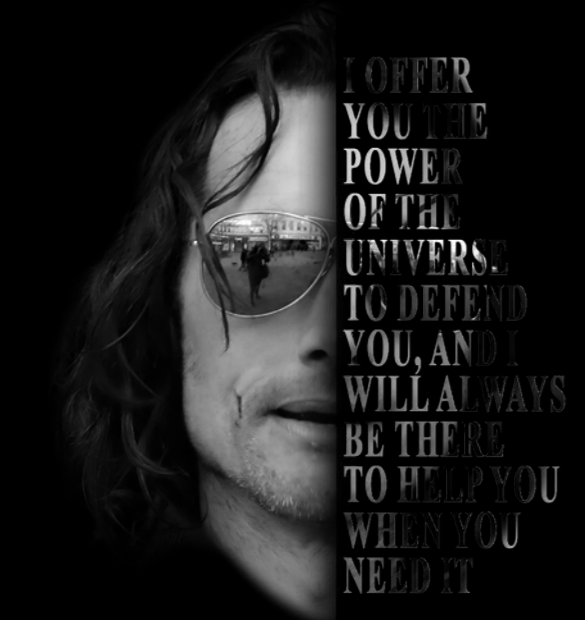
The series shows the stories of those who often go unheard and are under-represented. Throughout the project, I have come to the conclusion that people who live on the streets often don't have a "voice"and are almost unseen and yet at the same time they are often the ones who have the most powerful stories to tell.

This project aims to give my subjects the opportunity to communicate to the world in order to draw attention to and advocate for their cause.

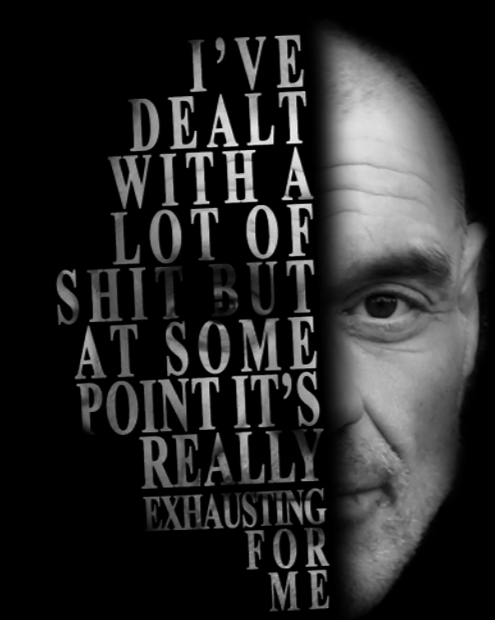
Stewart M. -



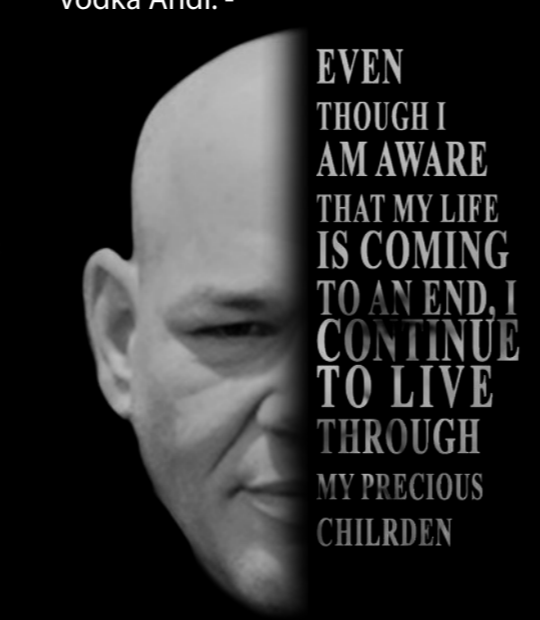
John P. -



Collin Faulk. -



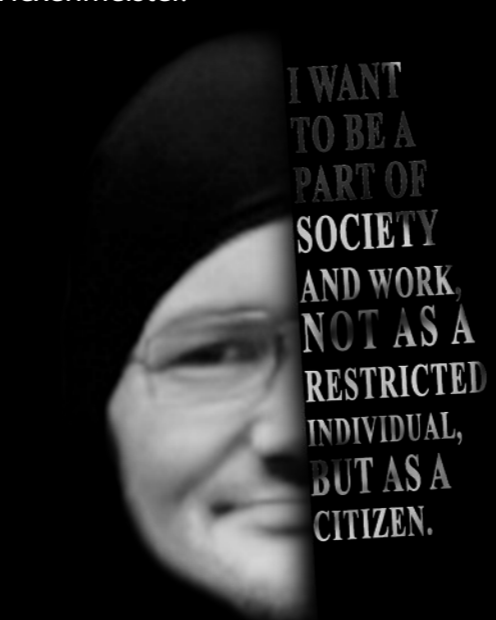
Vodka Andi. -



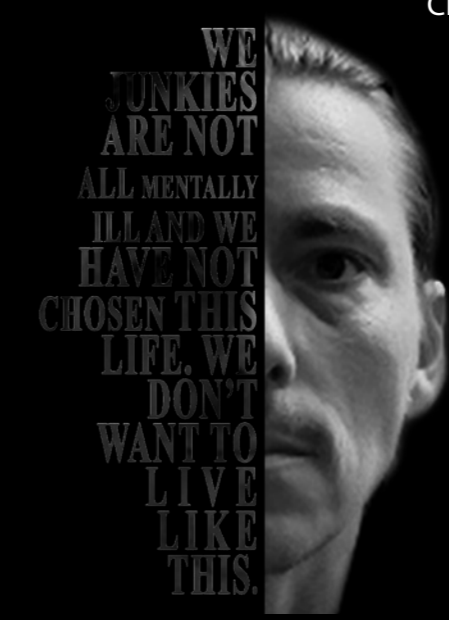
Azrael. -



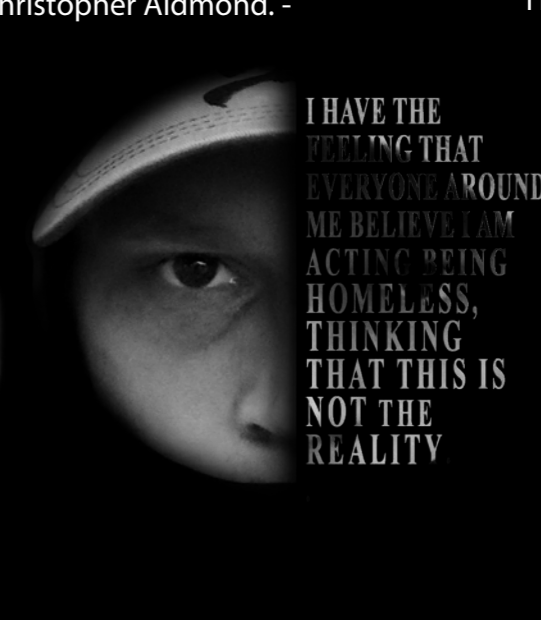
Hexenmeister. -



Stefan Admiral. -



Christopher Aidmond. -



Holger Janßen. -

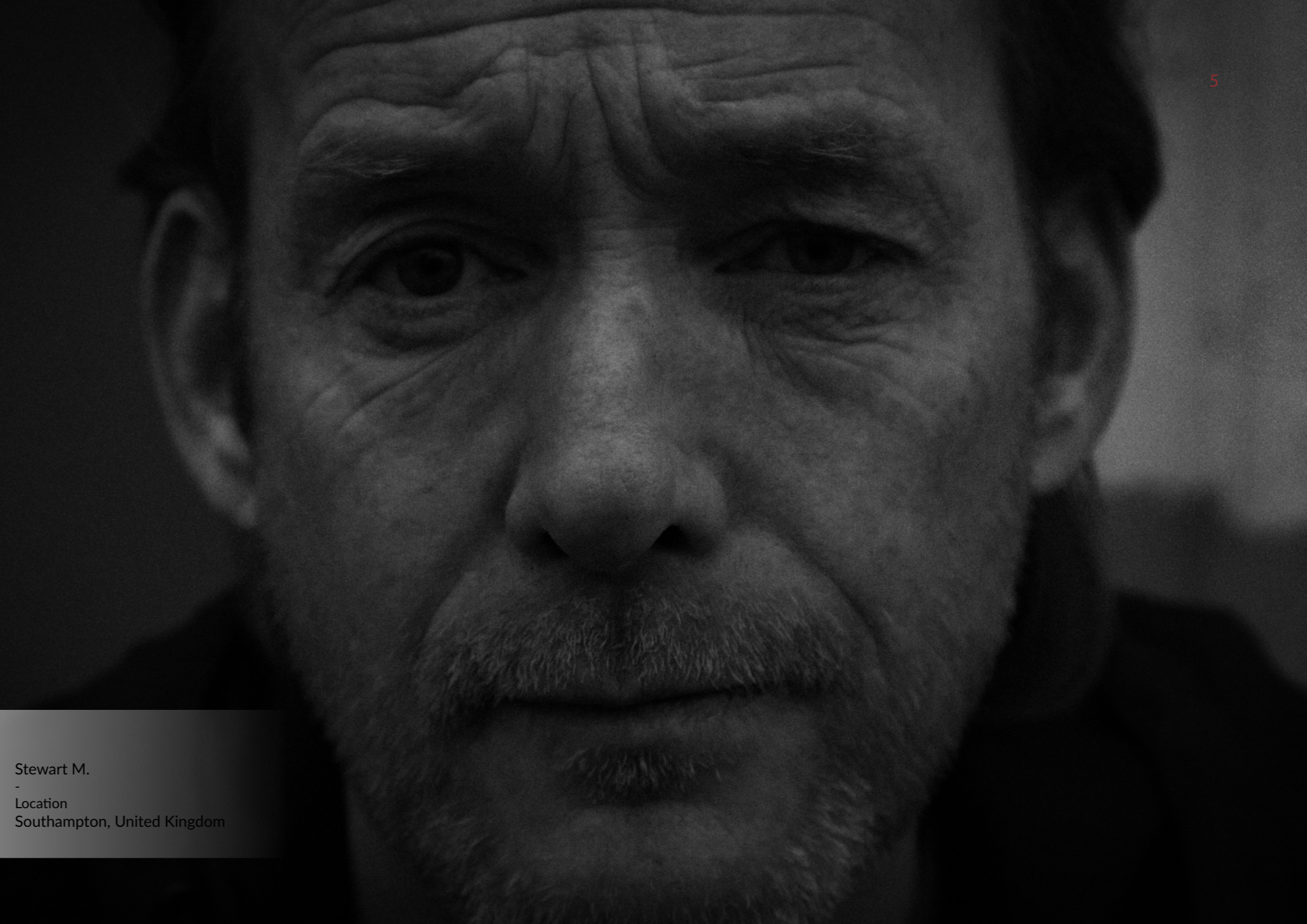


## Stewart M.

### Story :

My name is Stewart and I am from Aberdeen, Scotland. My life on the streets has its origins back to the time when I was a young man. I worked in a firm where I was also a part of the Eurofighter production line. My life was nice, and I made a decent living. I planned to take a two-week vacation to Southampton at some time. During this time, I met and fell in love with a woman. We dated and ended up with four children. Naturally, I've been in Southampton ever since and do not leave. But things are falling apart, as they often do in life, and neither my relationship nor I remained untouched. My marriage and my life both shattered. My time on the streets began exactly when my relationship ended. This is life.

LIFE  
IS NOT  
FAIR OR  
UNFAIR  
THAT'S  
JUST  
HOW  
IT  
WORKS.



Stewart M.  
-  
Location  
Southampton, United Kingdom



John P.  
-  
Location  
Southampton, United Kingdom



## John P.

### Story :

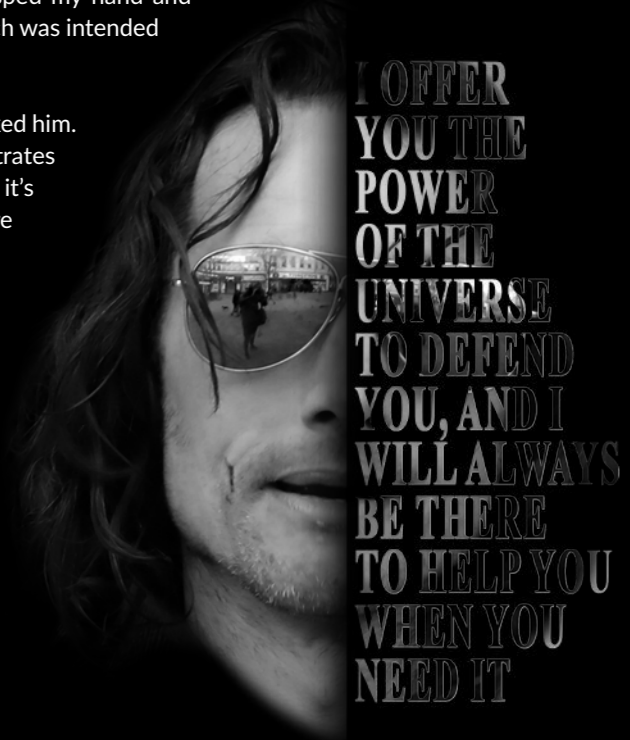
I'd like to offer myself as a storyteller for my encounter with John P. which was a unique form of Conversation in a different dimension.

John was quite thankful when I approached him and handed him water and an apple. He considered himself an artist and was overjoyed that I photographed him. By accompanying me all the way home, he seemed to expressing his thanks. He talked to me about several things on the way home. We'd only be using 70% of our brains, and he'd be able to properly estimate the age of everyone around him. We discussed art, and he started poetry and singing.

He impressed me as a really unique character, and even though we didn't have a meaningful discussion, he appeared to need someone to talk to.

He wanted to give me a strong handshake before we left ways. "I offer you the power of the universe to defend you, and I will always be there to help you when you need it," he added as he grasped my hand and handed me one of his hair tie, which was intended to provide me with protection.

We said our goodbyes after I thanked him. This isn't a story, but it demonstrates that everyone has a heart, and it's often worth looking deeper before passing judgement.



I OFFER  
YOU THE  
POWER  
OF THE  
UNIVERSE  
TO DEFEND  
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WILL ALWAYS  
BE THERE  
TO HELP YOU  
WHEN YOU  
NEED IT



Collin Faulki  
-  
Location  
Southampton, United Kingdom


## Collin Faulki

### Story :

I was born and raised in Belgium. I've travelled to many different parts of the globe. But I've also spent time in several prisons. I used drugs for a long time. I chose to stop using drugs after years of doing so, and that was my main goal. I went to rehab and gave it a go. I continued to live on the streets after being freed. I gave it my all and attempted a variety of jobs. However, not everything went as planned, and drug usage is widespread and widely circulated in this area. There is no effective assistance available to provide drug prevention, and you are instantly judged. They betrayed me, and then Covid appeared.



I'VE  
DEALT  
WITH A  
LOT OF  
SHIT BUT  
AT SOME  
POINT IT'S  
REALLY  
EXHAUSTING  
FOR  
ME





Vodka Andi  
Locations  
Düsseldorf, Germany

## Vodka Andi

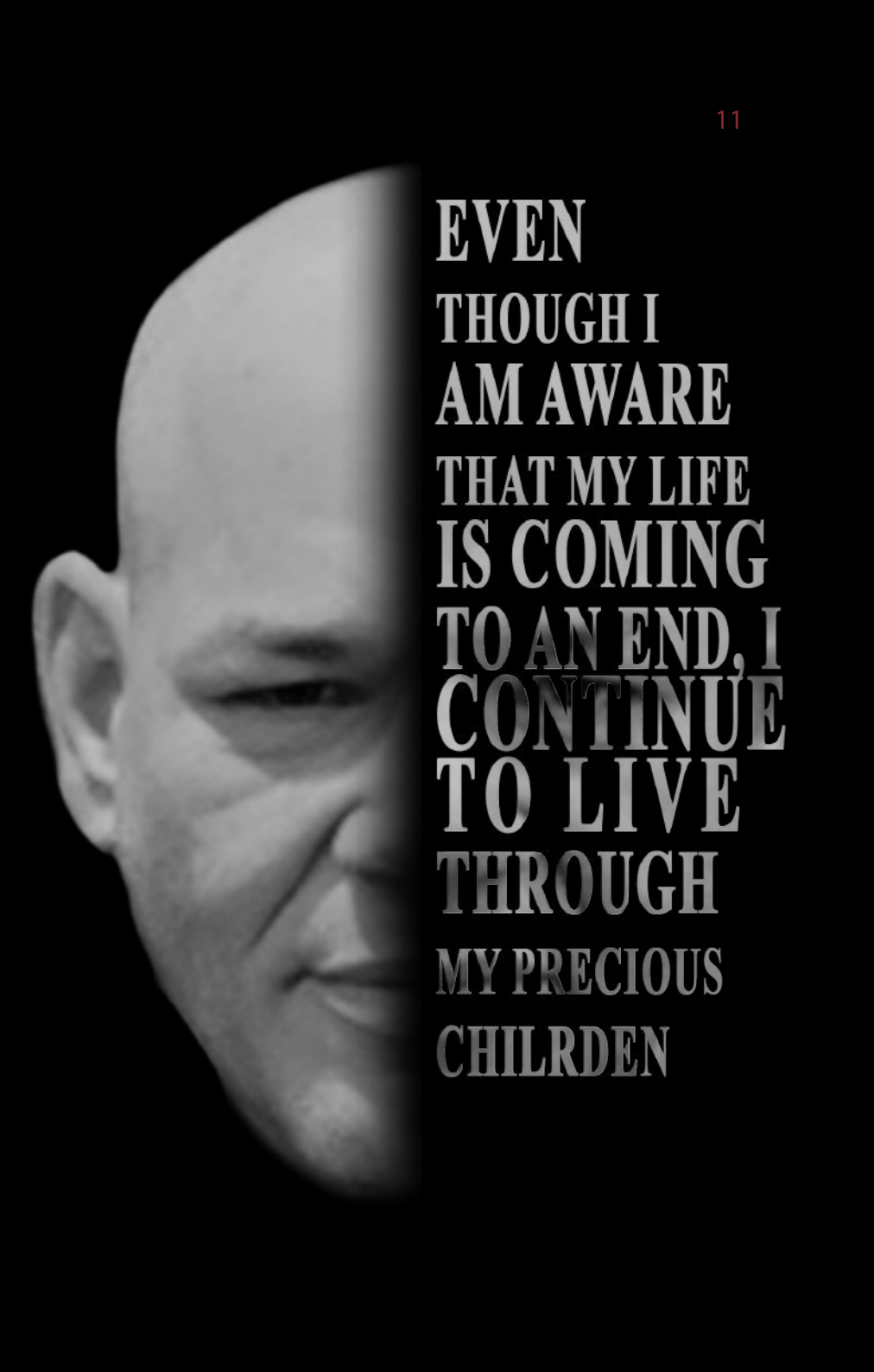
### Story :

My name is Vodka Andi. I spent 18 years and beyond in a children's and youth home, thanks to the German Children and Youth Protection Act, which allows you to stay in the home after you turn 18. My life on the street began when I was no longer able to reside in the youth home. During my time on the streets I realized that life on the streets is not all horrible; you meet a lot of kind people; but there is also a lot of crime. I spent a considerable amount of time in prison.

I was married twice throughout my life and had four children, one of my children died two years ago. I understand that life may be hard, but that was one of the most painful times I ever had.

I continue to live with vigour and strive to make the most of every opportunity. We refuse to lose our sense of humour and fun. I once received a letter that made me feel completely lost. I laughed out loud with my brother-in-law as I puzzled how a homeless person could have an address.

We still do have it tough. Doctors have told me that I only have 3 to 4 months to live. My cancer is terminal. Because the pain is terrible, I drink to reduce it.



**EVEN  
THOUGH I  
AM AWARE  
THAT MY LIFE  
IS COMING  
TO AN END, I  
CONTINUE  
TO LIVE  
THROUGH  
MY PRECIOUS  
CHILDREN**

# Azrael

## Story :

I've been living on the streets since I was 18. My family situation was challenging and usually stressful. Conflicts were continuous, and I first had problems with my mother, then with my father. I grew up in a series of households where my life was tightly regulated and predetermined. I was instructed where I had to go and who I had to get along with.

I decided at the age of 18 that I no longer put up with this and would make my own decisions, even if it meant living on the streets. I decided to tour throughout Europe, and with the exception of three nations, I managed to do so. I've had a lot of adventures and seen a lot of things, for better or worse. One of the worse experiences was the situation in Russia, where homeless individuals frequently face opposition. The cops tormented me there; not only me, but all homeless people are harassed and beaten up when they are apprehended.

Other countries, on the other hand, provide significantly superior living circumstances. As much as I grumble about Germany, I have to state that I am glad to be here since the social structures are still intact. But even in Germany there are significant disparities in the social systems of institutions and permanent accommodations. After all, I have to say that everyone who is hungry or without shelter in Germany is solely to fault since he does nothing. You can get off the street if you really want to. I'm currently migrating away from street living and into a shared flat with a few other people in Düsseldorf.

I TOOK  
CONTROL  
OF MY  
FUTURE AND  
TRAVELLED  
THROUGHOUT  
I HAVE NO  
REGRETS  
ABOUT  
MY PATH



Azrael & Hexenmeister  
-  
Location  
Düsseldorf, Germany

# Hexenmeister

## Story :

I still go by the name Hexenmeister since I used to combine a lot of vodka and energy drinks and nearly caused one or two knockouts with this cocktail. I knew how to party. Unfortunately, it was not a long time where I partied and had a good time.

My godfather and I shared an apartment in Düsseldorf. When he died, the landlord evicted me from the apartment. Since then, I've been living on the streets without a job and with Hartz IV. The issue isn't that I don't want to work; it's rather that I'm not permitted to work. The only option the employment office offers me is to acquire a handicapped person's card and work in a disability workshop, but I don't believe I'm disabled enough to be required to work there. That's all there is to it.

I WANT  
TO BE A  
PART OF  
SOCIETY  
AND WORK,  
NOT AS A  
RESTRICTED  
INDIVIDUAL,  
BUT AS A  
CITIZEN.

# Stefan Admiral

## Story :

Before we start, I want to say that it would be fantastic if people and organisations saw this and acknowledged that we junkies are not all mentally ill and have not chosen this life because we don't want to live like this. We've arrived in this abusive world and made ourselves at home. Because there is no simple way out, you try to make the best of it. Not only a divorce or a road accident can create such scenarios but also smaller emotional ties as well. Anyone can be damaged; no one is safe. However, society is closed in this regard, and if no one provides assistance, you will be stuck with it for the rest of your life. How did I end myself in this situation? My father was an alcoholic who abused me on a daily basis. I can recall every single day. My parents divorced when I was ten years old. After such a tough life, my mother kicked me out when I was 14 years old. Rather, she deceived me and sent me to a mental facility on the basis that I was suicidal. The woman from the youth welfare office played along, claiming that I was tough and my mother required some space, and that after the stay, I would return home. After three months, instead of returning home, they send me to a youth centre, where I ran away, indicating the start of my life on the streets.

I made an effort to live a regular life. I had a job and had been clean for a while. I went to therapy, but I still have attachment issue and trauma. I discovered my better half, my dog after I started taking drugs again and was in a really awful place and about to die. She saved me and helped me get over my difficulties, and we've been together ever since. I eventually found crocheting for myself.

A normal life with love and family is not a given, and it would be really valuable to me if people are willing to pay more attention to their surroundings and perhaps look at me truly rather than dismissively.



Stefan Admiral  
-  
Location  
Kleve, Germany

WE  
JUNKIES  
ARE NOT  
ALL MENTALLY  
ILL AND WE  
HAVE NOT  
CHOSEN THIS  
LIFE. WE  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
LIVE  
LIKE  
THIS.





# Christopher Aidmond

## Story :

My story begins on the day I was freed from jail. I was put in a BASS house after my release since I was homeless. However, I was kicked out of the BASS home for no known reason and was thrown back into prison for a week to get me out. After that, I spent a year at Patrick House in Southampton. And just three days ago they forced me out of the house because all of my possessions were in someone else's room. They refused to unlock the door for me to grab my clothing. Of course, this angered me, and I was then ejected.

It's been three days, and everything I own is in the room where I was thrown out, and they won't even replace my sleeping bag.

I was part of a network right before I went to prison due to my mental health issues. I have agoraphobia and paranoid schizophrenia, which is why I dislike being outside even now. I'm on medicine for it, but it's still difficult. I used to do a variety of jobs. I worked at a mail factory, "Icelands" and "period 24". I worked in a variety of jobs.

The way people live on the streets differs from city to city. People in my hometown of Brighton offered me money and assisted me since they understood I wasn't pretending. People in Southampton look at me strangely when I sleep on the street. They believe I'm acting.

My living condition is better in my hometown, but I am unable to go back no matter as much as I would want. There were issues with some individuals who pressured me to sell stuff I didn't want to sell, which is why I left.



**I HAVE THE  
FEELING THAT  
EVERYONE AROUND  
ME BELIEVE I AM  
ACTING BEING  
HOMELESS,  
THINKING  
THAT THIS IS  
NOT THE  
REALITY**

Christopher Aidmond  
-  
Location  
Southampton, United Kingdom





Holger Janßen  
-  
Locations  
Kleve, Germany

## Holger Janßen

### Story :

The last page of my photo book is dedicated to someone who is like a father to me but is no longer with us. Holger Janßen was the type of person who was always the first to give assistance and showed up right away. He taught me how to ride a motorcycle, and we've been going on trips together ever since. I learned how to replace a vehicle tyre and repair a bicycle tyre thanks to him. Holger Janßen had been in my life since I was a child, but I was unaware of his inner conflict.

Surrounded by many friends, he appeared to be able to get everything off his chest, but in the end, he had something unspoken that dragged him down more and more. He committed suicide in 2022, when I was working on this project. No matter how hard we would have tried, there was no way to stop it.

I created this project to demonstrate to humanity and myself how unique we are, how we all have our own struggles to overcome and stories to share. It seems difficult to me to know everything there is to know about someone in a second, yet we can usually judge someone without knowing them.

The death of someone important and the circumstances of his death made me realise how often a person goes unheard or is unable to share their own story, for whatever reason, because no one wants to listen to them or maybe they think they are unable to share their feelings, thoughts, or even their story with anyone. Every person has a right to humanity, and that is the core of my project.

Every person has a unique story to tell and is just as valuable as any other. That is the core of my project, the Stories of Personalities.

**YOU  
CAN'T  
JUDGE  
SOMEONE  
ONLY ON  
THEIR  
APPEARANCE.  
EVERYONE  
HAS THEIR  
OWN STORY  
TO TELL**





## Tom Noah Liebrand

I want to express my gratitude to all of those special personalities for believing in me, allowing me to experience life on the streets and sharing this with the world. I'd also want to thank my girlfriend, she helped me to achieve the for me best possible outcome of this project through her suggestions and her trust in my skills.

I also thank my family, particularly my mother, for supporting me throughout my Bachelor and believing in me.

This project is dedicated to all the voices that were not loud enough to be heard in this world.

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