

# With the Love of a Woman

by Eddie Greene

I was out on bail while waiting to go to trial and wondered why I had done the dumb crime in the first place. My demons had me. I had done a lot of very bad things in my life. I knew in my heart that most likely I would be going to jail. Then I met a pretty woman in a supermarket. Fate was on my side that day and meeting her was the beginning of my transition from a life of crime.

As we talked, we found we had a lot in common. Months went by and we had a lot of good times. I knew I still had to go to court and face the judge about my crime but I didn't have enough faith in my woman to tell her the truth. She was the very first female who came into my life that really meant anything to me — period. Telling her, the most important woman in my life, the woman I didn't want to lose, the truth seemed too risky and difficult.

When I think back I realize that you meet the right woman and don't know what to do. You don't know how to act. I got along okay with her family. Her son was in the service, her daughter a police officer. Maybe she knew all the time that I had a police record and an open case.

The month I had to go to court and face the judge, she knew something was wrong with me. Finally, when the day of reckoning came, I was still afraid to tell her the real truth about myself. The night before I had to be in court for the sentencing, I didn't come home to her. I told her I had some business that I had to take care of the next day, gave her a long kiss, told her I loved her, and walked out the door.

The judge gave me more time than I had expected to get. I called her; she said, "Why didn't you tell me the truth? I love you and I know why you are in jail, Eddie." She had found out what I was charged with and how long the judge gave me. She told me the one thing a woman has never said to me before — that she could tell

from the first time we met that I had a lot of good in me. She realized I was afraid of losing her. She said she would come and see me, wait for me to get out, and marry me.

From the day we met, she made me feel special and I started to change. She has motivated me a lot. I have learned that there is good in me and I have hope. I have always overlooked my public responsibilities. I hung around the wrong kind of people, doing what I wanted to do without really realizing the hurt and sorrow I caused.

Today I am aware of my demons. I'm going through the process of becoming a better man in here. I want to be prepared to succeed when I get out on the street. I have learned it takes a real man to stop making the mistakes that keep bringing him back to prison. I've started acting in new and better ways, which are a reflection of the change in me: I have learned a lot of good things from my teacher; I listen to my counselor, my woman, and all of the staff.

I've finally learned that prison is no place to be. It is time to leave my old so-called friends. I know life may be difficult, but I can and will make my life better. I now have a real desire to be a better citizen. My success and transition into a better life after prison depend on that. I told my woman I'll never go to jail again for any reason. We're gonna be married and buy our own home. I just wish I could have met her and learned these lessons before I committed this crime I'm in jail for now.



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*Eddie Greene was born in Georgia and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He will be released from prison in August 2006.*