

# ONCE AN ADDICT

THE STORY OF BARRY WOODWARD



"THE DOOR TO THE CELL BURST OPEN AND THEY STARTED SEARCHING. "WE HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING, BOSS," I SAID, BUT I WAS LYING. AS A DRUG ADDICT I HAD THE WORKS HIDDEN IN THE CELL AND THEY KNEW IT."



"IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS. I HAD A NORMAL UPBRINGING IN MANCHESTER BUT THE OLDER I GOT THE MORE I STARTED DRINKING, SMOKING AND THEN TAKING DRUGS. ALTHOUGH I WORKED I COULDN'T KEEP IT UP AND EVENTUALLY STOPPED WORKING TO SELL DRUGS."

"I USED TO GO TO THE UNION PUB AND WAS SELLING THERE. IT WAS PRETTY ROUGH BUT I HAD REGULAR CUSTOMERS."



"WHEN THE HACIENDA (THE BIGGEST CLUB IN MANCHESTER AT THE TIME) OPENED ITS DOORS IT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD. I REALLY GOT HOOKED ON THE MUSIC. BY THIS TIME I WAS TAKING ALL SORTS, AMPHETAMINES, WEED, EVEN HEROIN."



"I STARTED MIXING AND SAW MYSELF AS A FULL TIME DJ. I STAYED IN MY FLAT FOR DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS, TAKING SPEED AND MIXING. I HARDLY ATE, HARDLY WENT OUT."



"ONE DAY WE'D JUST LET ONE OF OUR CUSTOMERS OUT AND THE POLICE WERE PASSING. THEY DIDN'T HAVE A WARRANT OR ANYTHING BUT IMMEDIATELY SAW ALL OUR GEAR AND DRUGS."



"I GOT PUT IN STRANGWAYS AND STARTED WITHDRAWING FROM THE EFFECTS OF HEROIN. IN THOSE DAYS THEY ONLY GAVE YOU AN ASPIRIN AND THAT WAS NO USE."



"WHEN I GOT OUT OF PRISON I WENT STRAIGHT BACK TO THE MADNESS, TAKING DRUGS AND COMMITTING CRIME TO PAY FOR MY DRUGS. THIS WAS THE LIFESTYLE I'D GOT USED TO."



'YOU F\*\*\*\*\*  
B\*\*\*\*\*!!'

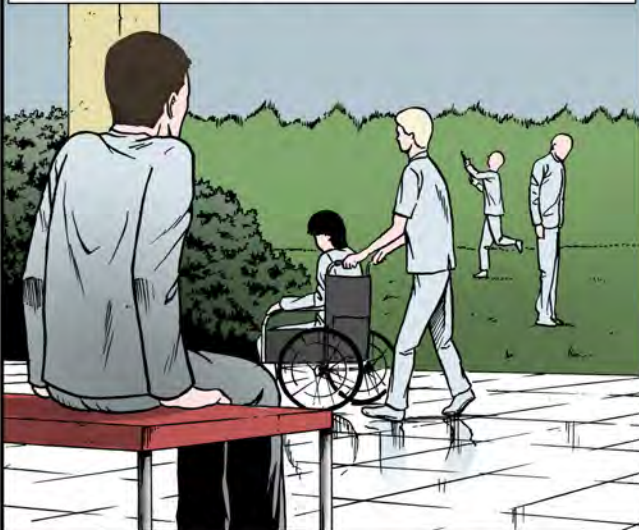


'YOU F\*\*\*\*\*  
B\*\*\*\*\*!!'

"ONE TIME I CAME OUT FROM ONE PRISON SENTENCE AND I STAYED AWAKE FOR 9 MONTHS. I JUST TOOK LOADS OF SPEED AND MADE MUSIC. I ENDED UP HEARING VOICES. THEY WERE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE."

"WE LIVED ON A ROUGH COUNCIL ESTATE. I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME YOUNG BOYS ACROSS SO I SMASHED THE WINDOWS IN TELLING THEM TO STOP. THE PLACE WAS EMPTY BUT THE VOICES CARRIED ON."

"I WENT TO SEE MY DOCTOR AND HE REFERRED ME TO A PSYCHIATRIST. I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH AMPHETAMINE PSYCHOSIS. I'D HAD A BREAKDOWN THROUGH TAKING TOO MUCH SPEED. MY HEAD WAS A MESS. THEY PUT ME IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL."



"ONE DAY ONE OF THE PATIENTS HIT MY GIRLFRIEND LISA IN THE FACE. HIS HAND WAS IN PLASTER SO WHEN HER FACE SWELLED UP I JUST JUMPED ON HIM AND STARTED TO BEAT HIM UP."



"ONCE I THOUGHT THAT GOD WAS CALLING ME AND I ENDED UP IN BUXTON NAKED AND BANGING ON THE DOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. I WAS ACTING REALLY ODD."



"OF COURSE I WAS ARRESTED. THEY FOUND OUT I WAS DISQUALIFIED FROM DRIVING I KEPT TELLING THEM, "GOD HAS CALLED ME!" AND THEY ALL FOUND IT FUNNY. HOWEVER WHILST IN PRISON I ENDED UP LOSING MY CAR AND ALL MY RECORDS AND EQUIPMENT WHEN MY DAD SOLD THEM TO SETTLE A DEBT."



"I ENDED UP IN A HOSTEL. ONE NIGHT SOMEONE WAS PLAYING THEIR MUSIC TOO LOUD. I TOLD THEM TO TURN IT DOWN BUT THEY TURNED IT UP. SO I LAID INTO HIM. AFTER THAT I HAD 'VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE' WRITTEN ON MY RECORD AND WASN'T ALLOWED BACK IN."



"I'D MET A GUY CALLED JOHN ON A BUS. THREE DAYS LATER I WAS TAKING MY DOG FOR A WALK WHEN I BUMPED INTO HIM AGAIN. I ASKED WHERE HE'D BEEN AND HE SAID CHURCH. HE SAID THEY MET IN THE HOSPITAL GROUNDS. THE NEXT DAY I STARTED TO LOOK FOR THE CHURCH BUT I COULDN'T SEE IT."

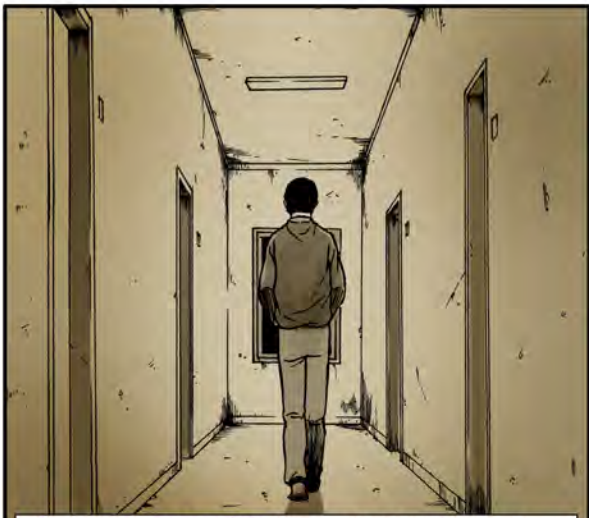


"I MOVED INTO A FLAT AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW ME. THE VOICES NEVER LEFT ME. I'D HEARD THEM FOR 9 YEARS. I WENT TO SEE A NEW DOCTOR, AN AFRICAN GUY NAMED SAMUEL"



"I ASKED A NEIGHBOUR, DOT, AND SHE TOOK ME TO IT. IT WASN'T WHAT I WAS EXPECTING. JOHN WAS THERE. EVEN THE AFRICAN DOCTOR WAS THERE AND HE WAS ACTING WEIRD. I THOUGHT, IF HE'S ODD WHAT CHANCE HAVE I GOT?"





"I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME SORT OF CONSPIRACY BUT AT THE END I WENT FORWARD FOR PRAYER. WHEN I GOT HOME SOMETHING WEIRD HAD HAPPENED. SILENCE. I WENT INTO THE TOILET, FLUSHED THE CHAIN AND NO SOUNDS, NO SHOUTING. NO MORE ABUSIVE VOICES."



"I'D BEEN ON METHADONE FOR YEARS BUT NOW I REDUCED IT OVER A FEW WEEKS TO NIL WITH NO EFFECTS. NO MORE VOICES. THIS WAS 1995 AND I HAVEN'T SEEN A PSYCHIATRIST SINCE."



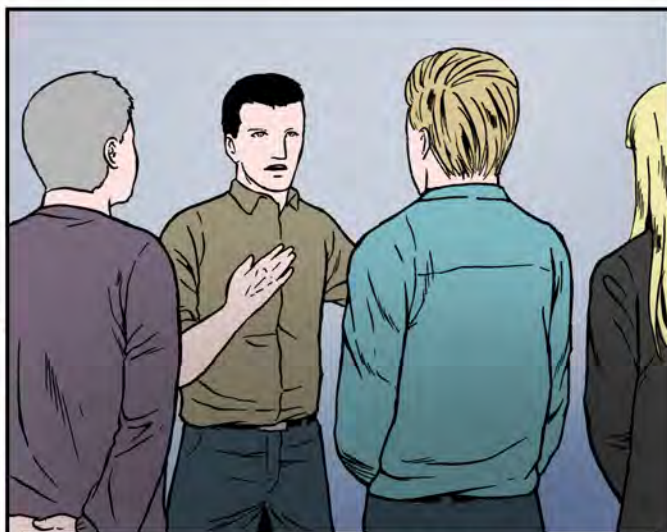
"I GOT RID OF THE TV AND JUST READ THE BIBLE. I KNEW THAT NOW I WOULD HAVE TO COME OFF BENEFITS BUT I TRUSTED GOD TO TAKE CARE OF ME. HE HAS NEVER LET ME DOWN."



"I WENT TO A FEW MEETINGS AND AT ONE AN INDIAN MAN POINTED ME OUT, SAID I'D BEEN AN ADDICT AND WAS GOING TO BE AN EVANGELIST. I HAD TO ASK MY MATE, 'WHAT'S AN EVANGELIST?'"



"I GAVE UP MY FLAT, GAVE MY FURNITURE TO A CHARITY, FOUND A HOME FOR MY DOG AND BEGAN A COUPLE OF YEARS STUDYING THE BIBLE AND LEARNING TO BE AN EVANGELIST. I WAS NO LONGER ON BENEFITS AND GOD WAS REALLY LOOKING AFTER ME."



"GRADUALLY I STARTED TO TELL MY STORY AT MEETINGS AND PEOPLE STARTED TO RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION (ACCEPTING JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR). I WAS TOLD I HAD AN ANOINTING FROM GOD. I GAVE THANKS FOR THIS."





"I MET MANY PEOPLE AND BEFORE I FINISHED BIBLE COLLEGE I SET UP A CHARITY, PROCLAIM TRUST."



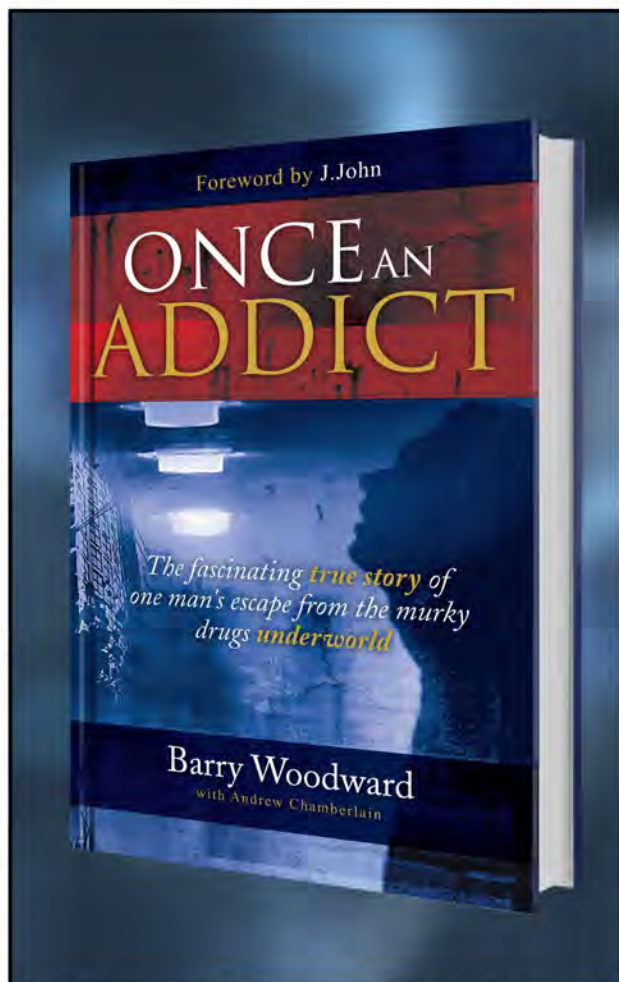
"ONE DAY I WATCHED A PROGRAMME 'IBIZA UNCOVERED' AND SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH YOUNG CLUBBERS WITH THE GOSPEL. I PUT TOGETHER A TEAM. THE LOCAL CHRISTIANS IN IBIZA GOT INVOLVED. IT WAS A SUCCESS."



"AS TIME WENT ON I GOT THE CHANCE TO SHARE MY STORY BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, IN PRISONS, SCHOOLS, ON THE STREETS, ANYWHERE THAT I COULD. NOW I GO INTO 30 PRISONS A YEAR AND HAVE GIVEN OUT OVER 40,000 COPIES OF MY BOOK FREE INTO PRISONS."



"IN 2002 I MARRIED TINA. WE ARE A GREAT TEAM AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE OVER THE YEARS TO ORGANISE CONFERENCES CALLED 'FIXED' AIMED AT ADDICTS."



"EVENTUALLY I WROTE A BOOK ABOUT MY LIFE, HOW I WAS A DRUG ABUSING YOUNG MAN SUFFERING FROM AMPHETAMINE PARANOIA, HOOKED ON HEROIN, MY LIFE GOING NOWHERE UNTIL GOD GOT HOLD OF ME AND TURNED MY LIFE AROUND. HE CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU IF YOU LET HIM."