

## Author Preface & Excerpt

I did not write this book to clear my name. I wrote it to claim it.

For too long, my life was told in courtrooms, headlines, and whispers. But I am more than a docket number. I am a father, a fighter, a Quamina. This name carries history—bloodlines of resistance that stretch back to the Akan people and the rebellion of Quamina Gladstone.

Raising Quamina is a testimony. To injustice. To perseverance. To the lives broken by silence and the healing power of truth. If my story does anything, I hope it ignites something in you: to speak, to act, to remember.

- **Excerpt 1 — The Day the Violin Died**

“I was headed out the door to school with my violin in hand when the FBI burst through. The first agent knocked the instrument out of my arms. The next three trampled it into splinters. I didn’t know it then, but they weren’t just breaking wood. They were splintering a boy’s dream.”

A story that begins with music and ends with silence—until one name refuses to die.

- **Excerpt 2 — The System Only Knew My Name**

“They didn’t know my story. They didn’t care about my truth. All they had was my name—and that was enough to bury me alive. But that name? That name came from warriors.”

Raising Quamina is not just a memoir. It’s a resurrection.

- **Excerpt 3 — Wrong Country, Wrong Time, Wrong Skin**

“I had signed up to fight for my country. But the real fight came after. In a foreign court, in a language I didn’t speak, for a crime they were determined to fit me.”

What happens when the uniform you wore becomes the weapon used against you?

- **Excerpt 4 — The Betrayal**

“Betrayal is a word often spoken, but rarely understood—until the police come knocking and the names they read aloud are the ones you once broke bread with.”

Some betrayals echo louder than gunshots.

- **Excerpt 5 — The Typewriter Was My Weapon**

“This was my turn to prove the pen was mightier than the sword. In my case, the typewriter. Every word I typed was a blow against the silence they forced on me.”

Raising Quamina is what happens when survival becomes strategy, and strategy becomes story.