



## Question Set 1

### You have a really interesting background - can you tell us your journey to become an author?

Thank You. I always thought I had an inspiring story to tell, and I think people need inspiration. I believe my story will help people through their journey in life, so I decided to become an author.

### Which do you prefer more - being a writer or the corporate world?

I prefer being a writer. However, I enjoyed working in corporate America — it helped me become the man I am today. Also, without having worked in the corporate world, I probably would not have fine-tuned my skill-set to its current level. It's the totality of my education, corporate experience, and entrepreneurial career that allowed me to write my first book.

### Tell us about your book. What inspired you to write it?

My book, *The Janitor's Sons: A True Story of Hope, Shattered Dreams, and Winning Despite Adversity*, is an inside look at urban life in America, and its suburban contrast. It's the story of me and my brother, raised amongst the broad spectrum of social classes in Detroit, Michigan, and its posh suburbs. It's a story of agony and ecstasy, crime and punishment, and choices that can impact one's entire life. The book is part of a project I started called "The Collier Project," which has the objective of helping young black males achieve at high levels. However, anyone who reads the book will be inspired and benefit.

I was inspired to write *The Janitor's Sons* when I met President Barack Obama for the second time. I was fortunate enough to attend a small, private reception with the president, and he and my son had a phenomenal personal moment together, a moment I will never forget — a moment that made me cry afterwards. My life flashed before my eyes. I remembered being robbed at gunpoint as a youth. I also reflected on the death of a fellow student who had been murdered outside of a party I attended. *What a life I've lived*, I thought, *and now the first black president of the United States is holding my son in his arms*. As time progressed, I thought to myself: what will be my legacy of service to humanity? How can I help inspire youth to achieve? How can I make a difference? So I decided I had to write *The Janitor's Sons*.

### What kind of feedback have you been getting from audiences?

People love the book. In fact, I've been told it should be required reading for high school (and possibly junior high school) students, as the book contains important life lessons that are relevant to anyone. I received this feedback from the superintendent of schools of a large school district. I've received similar feedback from high school and junior high school principals, teachers, and college professors. I've also had many people thank me for trying to positively impact society.

### Do you have plans to write another book?

Yes, in fact, I've nearly completed the manuscript for my second book. I've also written rough drafts for three other books. I wrote much of this while I wrote *The Janitor's Sons*.