

Streets? School? Service?...Survival.

In the fall of 2007 three foster siblings stand at a crossroad. Having survived volatile group homes, they are now thriving on their respective paths. Jackie "Jack" Isley's newfound love for traditional African Rhythms has broken down some of her emotional walls. Maurice "Duke" Lake is one month away from completing his second and final tour in Iraq and looking forward to reuniting with Jack (a romance ten years in the making.) And Dante "D" Richards has put the finishing touches on his first album; he's ready to touch the stars.

On the heels of bowing out of the crack game, Dante, a self-made entrepreneur, is faced with the decision to independently distribute his music or rehabilitate his estranged birth-mother—his number one customer.

Then comes the call to action: an ancestral rhythm that transports Dante and Jackie to their forgotten pasts chock-full of betrayal and abandonment. Now sitting on the edge of new beginnings, these two musketeers' journeys take a sharp u-turn and they suddenly find themselves unsure, tear-ridden and heartbroken at Duke's funeral. His trip home in a military casket force Jack and D to reconcile their pasts and futures. With their once shunned childhood shadows, they scour Brooklyn for Dante's drug-addicted mother.

Unlike her "brother" returning to East New York under these circumstances is a complete departure from Jackie's very plotted life journey. Ever since leaving her group home to board at Phillips Prep and now the Ivy League, she has mastered the ladder of success and is well aware that rungs for foster children and urban illegality are few and far between. Consequently, no one outside of the old neighborhood knows that Jackie's a foster child. She is the American dream, completely detached from her controversial beginnings.

Conversely, Dante still lives among his group homes and abusive foster parents. Bucking the system and its rules, Dante is East New York's self-made prince. With his eye on the prize, an authentic hip-hop album and enough saved up to stop selling crack, he is on the brink of salvation from his wrongdoings. Yet his world is thrown into complete upheaval when he slips and falls in front of a customer and she ekes out a get-well song—the same one his mother used to sing.

Faced with Duke's untimely death, Jack and D are confronted with what destiny, identity and journeying are really about. Of the three of them, Duke was the crack-baby, a newborn whose birthrights were the drugs in his mother's system. Determined not to let his life be "in vein," the siblings combine their talents (Jack's cultivated and Dante's instinctual) to find and ultimately rehabilitate Dante's mother...in essence, all of their mothers.

Crack babies grow up.

In "DiDE" these illegitimate seeds of the late eighties' drug epidemic realize that "growing up" does not mean moving away from home or callously separating yours and your community's interests. Empowered by their roots in African drum and dance, Dante and Jackie eventually tap into their pain and rejoice in its telling.