



# Laugh Now

*Rahiem Brooks*

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## **Laugh Now** Rahiem Brooks

*Laugh Now* is the story of Kareem Bezel, whom by 22-years-old has made it to the top rung of the New York fashion industry; and, he has done everything to get there, including: fraud, theft, receiving stolen property, theft by deception, embezzlement, and identity theft. His crafty spree of thievery props his older brother, Andre Bezel's illicit drug business into the cross hairs of corrupt DEA Agent Lucas McKenziey.

Set in Philadelphia and its suburbs, *Laugh Now*, proposes that, although you're taken out the ghetto, if you were born to be a hustler, that's what you'll do.

The story shifts to New York, where the brothers attend Columbia and New York Universities. But before they graduate, Andre is under suspicion for murder, a rogue city councilman is poisoned, and Andre's first business partner - a white kid, who worked for McKenziey - has been tortured and murdered.

*Laugh Now* has all the elements: erotic sex, controversial club scenes, lavish shopping spree, murderous robberies, dangerous high speed chase, and something novel to urban fiction: white collar crime, highlighting a whole new form of trickery.

By *Laugh Now's* end, the brother's have a well crafted story to tell prosecutors: "Agent McKenziey made us do it, or he planned to arrest us like he did our dad."

## **Laugh Now Details**

Date : Published August 24th 2010 by Prodigy Publishing

ISBN : 9780578057774

Author : Rahiem Brooks

Format : Paperback 182 pages

Genre :

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# From Reader Review Laugh Now for online ebook

## Marcus Gary says

Considering, I inspired the character, Marquis, I strongly believe that this is a good read. LOL.

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## Sistar Tea says

Cry Later

This novel brings forth a subject matter that needs more light shed on it: the real ever-growing crime of Identity theft. While this subject hits up the news waves it is now the topic of debut author Rahiem Brooks as he introduces us to the Bezel brothers and their illegal careers.

This fast paced novel will keep you entertained. Older Brother Andre "Dre" is in college trying to do the right thing, but sometimes the street life just pulls you back in. One day Dre makes a deal with the devil and we follow the consequences behind that action which makes for interesting reading. Kareem is the younger brother and over time has proved to be the mastermind. Kareem has his hand in so many things it's amazing. Kareem was charming and a pleasure to read about. This novel will entertain you and put you on point as what not to do to avoid being a victim of a faceless crime.

I really enjoyed this novel and this book will serve as a good reference of what to avoid. The biggest drawback was the small print, which I believe was being taken care of in the next print, but I can only speak on the copy I have. Also the minor editing issues nothing too much to really distract from the story. The biggest issue for me was the small chapters 158 pages and 77 chapters!!! All in all I would recommend this novel and it contains some extremely good information.

SiStar Tea  
ARC Book Club Inc.  
4 star rating

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## Latisha Patterson says

I really like Andre and Kareem Bezel and I was rooting for them to come out on top the whole book. I love the cunning and suave characteristics that Kareem possess. At such a young age both brothers sought out a life full of fame and fortune. Even though Kareem was the youngest he was very clever and getting what he wanted and stayed two steps ahead of the game to save his brother from his bad choices. I love the young love that was captured with both couples, Tasha and Andre' as well as Toi with Kareem. The story captured me from beginning to end. A definite 5 star read

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## **Kiexiza says**

Rahiem Brooks  
ISBN: 978-0-578-05777-4  
LCCN: 2010928322  
www.rahiembrooks.com

When you first read the title *Laugh Now*, you have no idea that you are about to embark on a journey into one of society's biggest issues, Identity Theft! Today Identity Theft, is taking people and throwing their once hard earned credit into the toilet and leaves them with a bills of bills they now have to Prove they aren't responsible for. Rahiem takes you on a fast paced visual into the lives of the Bezel brothers and their illegal crime spree.

*Laugh Now* will no doubt keep you entertained and ready to turn the page. Andre, the oldest of the duo, has his mind set on doing the right thing and leaving crime alone. Sometimes you just can't ignore the call of the street no matter how hard you try. When he makes a deal with the wrong person he takes the reader on an extensive journey that will have you begging for more.

Kareem, the younger brother, has his hand into many different aspects of crime. and turns out to be the mastermind behind many schemes.

if you want to know what to do so as not to be a victim of Identity Theft, read about how they were masters at it.

Though i thought the novel was going to be a street Lit novel, which im not a fan of. It turned out to be more of a suspense novel. The one thing i wished was different, was the textbook tiny font. I needed my granny's glasses to read it. A editing issues, but nothing overwhelmingly distracting. Over all i say job well done Rahiem, Welcome to the literary world!

TNK REVIEW 2010

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## **Mzgrammybear says**

This young man calls himself "Mr. Story Developer" and that he certainly is!!! :-)

Here is another feature that I was fortunate to recite on my #OpenMic session on my Steamy Jones Show last week, 1/18/11.

From the first to last page, you are introduced to the gritty schemes and hustling world of the two Bezel's brothers. Allow me to introduce brothers, Kareem a.k.a Reem & Andre a.k.a Dre who are just living it up! We enter their world of hustling, trials and for sure tribulations. Don't get it twisted these two brothers may have committed their share of crimes, but were no fools!

Kareem, was a senior in H.S at just 16 and his brother Andre was a star quarterback on the H.S football team. Both were destined for greatness, but just had a little bit of extra fun along the way. Some of it was a bit scary for most, but the two handle it with style and grace. No matter what, came out on top! But with success always comes along a corrupt "greed goblin" and this one was called the DEA.

This book is definitely a page turner. I just #LoveLoveLove it. I'm patiently awaiting part 2. Another one I must look into! LOL..Laugh Now is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Go now, yes right freaking now and purchase!

But in the meantime in between time, check out Mr. Brooks upcoming latest, CON TEST. This book has an excerpt avail for FREE via [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). This book is also another freaking page turner a.k.a #MustRead.

I said it once and I'll say it again.. "Mr. Brooks is a beast with his writing skills"!!

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## **Justina Wheelock says**

Review by: Justina Wheelock on Jun. 11, 2011

### **The Devil Is In The Details**

Raw. Real. Intense. With a unique style, Rahiem Brooks comes out with his literary pen blazing from the first chapter. The author opens up by taking the reader on a journey through Philadelphia--one street at a time. Readers will know they are in for a fast paced and gut wrenching ride.

In my opinion, this work can not be held strictly onto the shelves of contemporary urban or street literature. With each con, my mind took me back to a feeling of deja vu. There was a feeling of reading scenes from a script of the BBC TV Show, HUSTLE. As a reader, you too will hate the crimes the brothers commit; however, you will fall in love with the plots intricately woven into this realistic tale. The author's use of authentic dialogue adds the right touch of reality in a non-judgmental way. Art accurately imitates life.

LAUGH NOW is an outstanding debut work. Definitely keep your eye on the prodigy, Rahiem Brooks. He will have the last laugh on the critics.

Justina Wheelock  
Novelist/ Screenwriter

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## **Mary Arthur says**

There I was passing through the mall, and this young man stopped me to tell me about his book. Now I was apprehensive about stopping, but I was equally impressed that he stopped me. He pitched me the plot of his novel, and didn't think because I am an elderly that i couldn't read, so I bought his book to support him. And I loved it.

Laugh Now was very fast paced, just how I like my movies. Everything was done neatly and clearly. I am a lifelong Philadelphian, and Mr. Brooks effectively placed me on every corner that the characters were on. Even when there was a bit of Hollywood in the novel, it rang of believability. I can't wait to read part 2, because I wanna know if Dre goes to jail and Kareem continues on stealing.

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## **Rocky Northington says**

Love it

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## **Elizabeth says**

I just finished reading "Laugh Now"..... and I must say this was an Excellent read. There are so many moving elements to this book that it will keep you engrossed the ENTIRE read. The Bezel Brothers are Handsomely Devastating... is all senses of the phase. Good Looking, Educated, Street Savy, and Focused on obtaining the luxury of success by any means necessary. In each Chapter of the story you are wrapped in suspense, and the Author Mr. Rahiem Books makes sure that you feel like you are IN each scene. The descriptive quality is truly incomparable.

Beside being a Read that will have you on the edge waiting to see where The Bezel Brothers will land. There is so much knowledge to gain and take heed to. This book was definitely enlightening on the dangers of Identity Theft and opened my eyes. If you are looking for a Great book that will not only entertain by enlighten.... "Laugh Now" is a must read.

By: Elizabeth Funderbirk  
<http://LiteraryLiz.com>

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## **G Nelson says**

Great read from an ambitious author. Looking ahead for the next one.

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## **Rhea Alexis Banks says**

Laugh Now is a gritty, detailed, exciting novel full of the imagery of a movie with many twist and turns. As the lives of Kareem and Andre Bezel unfold we experience the adventures, dangers and successes of their chosen paths. Each brother ventures into the criminal world as they chase the easy and fast dollar while marinating in the successes that it brings. There are so many characters that impact their everyday lives as well as their illegal dealings that it can make one think twice about people that we deal with everyday.

I commend Mr. Brooks on his first novel that is a thoroughly written story full of details and descriptions that make the reader feel like he/she is right there witnessing these activities as they unfold. This would make a very good, fast paced movie that I would truly enjoy. Looking forward to this one continuing....

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## **Jess Scott says**

Really enjoyed the realistic grittiness and URBANess of the writing/setting/characters. It's kinda like a mix between Catch Me If You Can, and Another Day In Paradise (the latter being a book that takes a raw look at a troubling mix of drugs and crime, a.k.a. the real version which James Frey apparently "gained inspiration from," to write his fictitious memoir).

What I liked most about the writing and the telling of LAUGH NOW (of 22-year-old Kareem's thieving escapades), was the ease the author has with the whole urban flavor. The plot doesn't ring with the non-believability of crimes depicted in a (stereo?)typical "Hollywood blockbuster" kind of way. From the dialogue, to the dress code, to the cars driven, to the music, everything was unpretentious and somehow really refreshing, that way. As a reader, you will really feel like you're right there amidst the (fast-paced) action with the characters in the story. I spent my growing-up years in a city, so my B.S. radar is finely tuned when it comes to urban fiction ;)

Rahiem Brooks is a gutsy, fresh, and fierce novelist. WATCH OUT FOR HIM!

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## **Danie says**

I enjoyed this book, I am glad that I won it! It has a very urban real life feel to it. This is a book that you easily get in engrossed in! There are not too many books out there that talk about the crime of identity thief, so it made for a really interesting read! It was very suspenseful and keep me turning pages!

Just won this book!! I am so excited! I got the goodreads email notifying me as I was ringing in the new year!! What a great way to start 2011 off!

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## **Ann says**

Clever and engaging; characters and storyline.

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## **Gregg Burton says**

I brought an autograph copy of Laugh Now from Rahiem Brooks at a book signing of his in Harlem this weekend. (Friday 10-21-11) I started reading the book last night and finished it in eight hours. It was a very good read. The Bezel brothers were a serious force! The twist and turns kept me turning the pages until I got to the last page. If not for the small font, I would have finished the novel sooner. Rahiem Brooks is an author you are going to want to watch out for. One day he will make it to New York Times best sellers list. Great job!

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