



## A Sense of Freedom

By Jimmy Boyle

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**A Sense of Freedom** By Jimmy Boyle

**Foreword by Irvine Welsh**

*'My life sentence had actually started the day I left my mother's womb...'*

Jimmy Boyle grew up in Glasgow's Gorbals. All around him the world was drinking, fighting and thieving. To survive, he too had to fight and steal... Kids' gangs led to trouble with the police. Approved schools led to Borstal, and Jimmy was on his way to a career in crime.

By his twenties he was a hardened villain, sleeping with prostitutes, running *shebeens* and money-lending rackets. Then they nailed him for murder. The sentence was life – the brutal, degrading eternity of a broken spirit in the prisons of Peterhead and Inverness. Thankfully, Jimmy was able to turn his life around inside the prison walls and eventually released on parole.

*A Sense of Freedom* is a searing indictment of a society that uses prison bars and brutality to destroy a man's humanity and at the same time an outstanding testament to one man's ability to survive, to find a new life, a new creativity, and a new alternative.

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## A Sense of Freedom By Jimmy Boyle Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"There have been many fictional versions of gangland Glasgow, but this is the real thing. Boyle's description of how he took the first steps to becoming the hard man of the streets is riveting and disturbing... Sadly, the public, the media and too many politicians still have not got the message that prison generally does not work. They should read this book." The List "This book changed my life" Shane Meadows "Prepare to be blown away" Irvine Welsh

#### About the Author

JAMES 'JIMMY' BOYLE was born May 17, 1944 in Gorbals, Glasgow, Scotland. Influenced by his harsh surroundings, Jimmy entered the world of crime as a youth. In 1967, he was given a life sentence for murder, a crime he didn't commit. Clashes with authorities and solitary confinement ensued. But, in 1973, Jimmy was one of the first offenders to participate in a rehabilitation program that included art therapy, which awakened a major creative talent. After his parole in 1982, and thanks to the discovery of his artistic talents, including sculpture work, Jimmy became an acclaimed artist and one of Scotland's most reformed criminals. First published in 1977, *A Sense of Freedom* is Jimmy's experience of youth in Gorbals, imprisonment as a young man and the courage to start life over again as a renowned sculpture artist.

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