

Carter West was abandoned as a child at the age of ten. His father, Shawn was reportedly killed while his mother, Kim was just 3 months pregnant with Carter. Kim turned to drugs shortly after the news of the tragic death of her boyfriend and it was a surprise that Shawn was born a healthy baby. Her addiction grew after she gave birth and Carter was often neglected. Carter was another lost child born into the tough life in Brooklyn.

Carter's early years were rough as he attended public school in Brooklyn and was constantly surrounded by the wrong people, weapons, and drug paraphernalia. He hung around with a group who were all about 6 years older than him and at the age of thirteen was introduced to cocaine. His mother was always with some random man who brought more drugs to her, only continuing her problem. Kim gave birth to two other boys, Jason and Damon. Young Carter didn't want his brother's to have the same childhood as he did and was still going through so he decided he would be their father figure, since their real father wasn't around. He couldn't watch them go to bed starving every night like did.

In the parts that Carter was brought up in, no body cared for anyone but themselves and it was very customary for a thirteen year-old to be selling drugs as he was doing. He would stay out to all hours, no matter how brutal the weather got. His age affected the money he made on the streets because he wasn't taken seriously by most costumers. Carter found other ways of getting

food as well as other necessities for his brothers, usually through robbing local marts and corner stores. With his life already headed in the wrong direction, his best friend, Kane, who had introduced him to drugs and he had been selling with was shot after he was accused of selling fake stuff. This loss cut deep, because Kane was closer to Carter than anyone, but Carter knew that if he let it get the best of him, he too would fall.

Kane was gone, but not forgotten and Carter kept him in his mind and heart as he continued on the struggle. Four years had past and Carter never forgot when Kane would tell him, "Were going to make it out of the hood together". This inspiration kept Carter motivated and money was coming easier, and he was fortunate enough to make it 4 years without getting caught by the police. The bad thing about making it big in Brooklyn was that more people knew about it and more people were after him. Older people who used to run the streets gossiped in barber shops about this "young hustler" who was ready to control Brooklyn's drug trade at seventeen. "The kid has heart," people would say when talking about the only time he took off was at 7:30 to walk his brothers to school and to put them to bed safely at 8:00. Carter was unaware that he was talked about this way, and didn't believe because he wouldn't let it get to his head.

What Carter also wasn't aware of, was the fact that his father Shawn wasn't really dead and he just ran away to Chicago, so he wouldn't have to deal

with a child. Shawn was also unaware of his son's existence, considering he forgot about Carter after he left. Shawn went on to have three more illegitimate children, who were all probably stuck like Carter.

On a bleak night, a few days after Thanksgiving, Carter was going out to do his work, after kissing his brothers goodnight. As he made his way to the corner he noticed there were a few unfamiliar faces at his spot. Carter just went on to handle his business and it turned out that two of the three men were fiends who usually weren't around his parts. The third man ironically was Carter's father Shawn, but with both of them being oblivious to each other's being they made nothing of it. He began conversation with Carter, even though the two made no eye contact throughout the whole discussion. He asked Carter his age and when he heard seventeen, he knew it was the kid who had been talked about all over New York City. He told Carter that it was his streets and always would be, and after Carter replied in a wise manner, tension grew between the two. Shawn told him it was his turf and to leave, but Carter didn't budge. Instead he removed his gun from his waist and turned and pointed it at Shawn. As he saw the older man, he felt like he was looking at his himself in a mirror just more mature, and with that he froze. Shawn on the other hand didn't think, he just grabbed his own gun and fired off instinct. Carter was hit with three shots and went stumbling to the ground, with a puddle of blood

following his fall. Shawn left the scene, as well as New York unaware that he had just killed his son.

The wake was held at the local parlor, and was backed up a block long. Women let out cries realizing how another boy had his life ended shortly and was never given a chance, but this child was different. He broke the law various times and was only seventeen years of age, however he did it all for his brothers because no one else was there to provide for them. The saddest part was he was doing the right thing for people who were trapped because their father did the wrong thing. Yet Shawn and the father of Jason and Damon are both still living, while this young man didn't make it past seventeen.