

## COVER ART

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**T**homas E. Parton was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania in 1958. A self-proclaimed country boy from head to toe, he graduated high school in 1977 from Canton High and served two years in the United States Air Force where he received an honourable discharge. Through the 1980s he began his involvement with alcohol and drugs, which cumulated into criminal activity and years of incarceration. While incarcerated he taught himself how to read and write music, as well as play guitar. He served his time doing art and leather craft, while also earning an Associates Degree from Penn State University in 1993. Having recently been granted parole, he plans to continue his education and earn a Certified Addiction Counselling (CAC) training accreditation to work as a drug and alcohol dependency counsellor.

**Front and Back Covers:** “Think Down the Beast”  
2010 pen and ink illustration  
Thomas E. Parton

This original art piece is one of three in a series designed to encourage the viewer to interpret the prison experience for themselves. From my point of view it is about the complexity of it all – looking at both sides of the coin. It is about what we lost over our lives in coming to prison. They are about the false romance some convicts often have with crime, fast money and distorted thinking. In the end, we do not see the beast until trapped inside its gut. And if you are one of the few fortunate ones, one day you get it and realize you alone are the key.