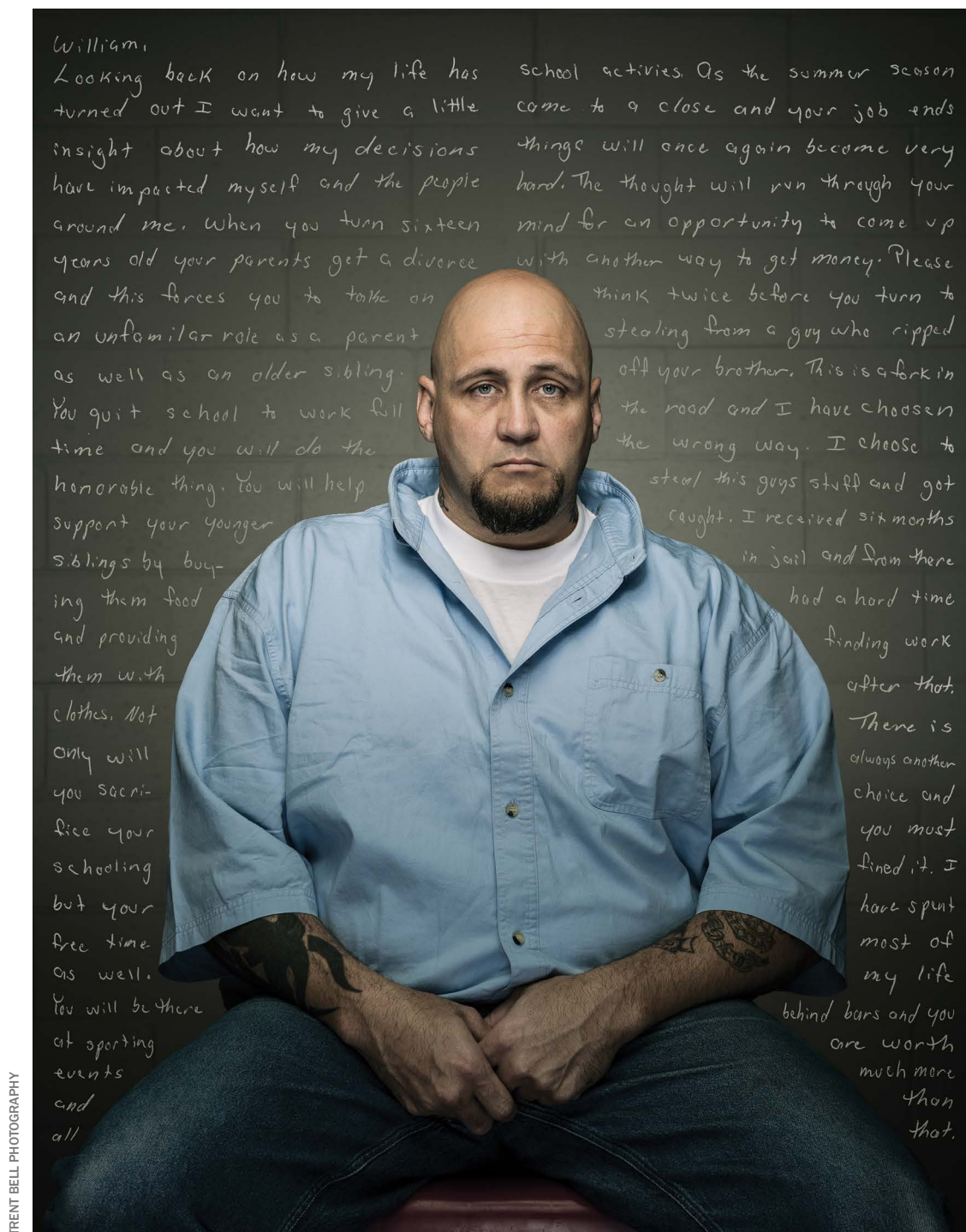


## REFLECT

Trent Bell's portraits ask viewers to look inward



**“WOW, THIS COULD BE ME.”** That’s what many people say when they view these pictures for the first time. They’re amazed by how much they have in common with the men. It’s how I felt when a good friend of mine was sentenced to 36 years in prison, which

helped inspire the *Reflect* project.

When I pitched the idea to the Maine State Prison, 12 men came forward, and we asked them to write a letter to their younger selves. Seeing the text and portrait together helps us understand these men as more than just “inmates”—

a moniker they work hard to move beyond. It was painful, but also very brave and noble, to share their ordeal, to accept what they did and learn from it. We can learn from it, too—that’s the core value of sharing these life-changing events. —As told to Meg Ryan