

The Broken Gavel: Personal Reflection Journal

Directions and Purpose

The *Broken Gavel Personal Reflection Journal* is designed as a companion to *The Broken Gavel: A Sneak Peek*. While the book tells a story of betrayal, accountability, and resilience, this journal invites you to turn those themes inward to explore your own experiences with trust, power, silence, healing, and truth.

Each section provides guided prompts that connect to the themes of the book while leaving space for your personal reflections. There are no right or wrong answers. This is not an academic exercise or a test, it is a private space for honesty, clarity, and growth.

How to Use This Journal:

- Read a section or chapter of *The Broken Gavel* and then pause to write.
- Choose prompts that resonate with you most; you don't need to answer them all.
- Let your responses be as short or as long as you need. Some reflections may take a sentence; others may take several pages.
- Revisit questions over time. Your answers may evolve as you grow, heal, and see things from new perspectives.

Purpose of the Journal:

- To deepen your connection to the themes of justice, resilience, and self-advocacy.
- To give language to feelings and experiences that may be difficult to name.
- To encourage courageous reflection on moments of betrayal, silence, and strength.
- To help you draw parallels between Dashawn's journey and your own life journey.
- To provide a safe space for healing, clarity, and self-discovery.

This journal belongs to you. Use it freely. Write in the margins, cross things out, sketch, highlight, or leave blank spaces. The purpose is not perfection—it is reflection.



Conclusion

The pages you've filled in this journal are more than words on paper—they are fragments of your truth, stitched together through reflection, honesty, and courage. Just as *The Broken Gavel* reveals that justice is not always found in courtrooms, but often in the act of reclaiming your voice, so too does this journal remind you that healing is not a single verdict but an ongoing process.

What you have written here is a testimony to your resilience. Every question answered, every memory revisited, every pause you took to sit with your thoughts represents a refusal to be silenced. You have dared to look inward, to ask yourself hard questions, and to wrestle with what justice, forgiveness, and accountability mean in your own life.

The journey doesn't end here. Reflection is a spark, but what you choose to do with the clarity you've uncovered is the fire. Will you speak a truth that has long gone unsaid? Will you forgive a wound that still lingers? Will you set boundaries that honor your worth? Or will you use your story to light the way for someone else still navigating the shadows?

The gavel may break, but from its fracture comes a reminder: power is never as unshakable as it seems. The true verdict lies not in what others have taken from you, but in what you decide to reclaim for yourself.

Carry this with you: your story has weight, your voice has power, and your truth can shift the ground beneath even the strongest walls.



Note for Readers:

These templates are for personal reflection and growth. Use them as journal entries, discussion starters, or even letters to your future self. Your story matters. Your truth matters. And your voice belongs to you.