

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Jada Watson:

My name is Jada, Jada Watson, and I do hair at Dreams Boutique at 3308 Greenmount Avenue.

Speaker 2:

It's kind of destiny for you. This is always what you wanted to be, huh?

Jada Watson:

Yeah. Yeah. Since I was younger. Eventually I want to have my own salon, that's why I'm furthering my education in hair. I'm in school to get certified in doing hair, I go to Baltimore Studio of Hair Design. So then once I get certified, I can do everything. Then I work at McDonald's as well in the nighttime. Just a little part time job. It pays the bills. That's all that matters.

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Speaker 2:

How old are you, Jada?

Jada Watson:

18. And what's most important to me right now is getting that certificate that says Jada Watson is an authorized cosmetologist. Once I get that, can't nobody say nothing to me. I have a boyfriend. Yeah, his name is Brandon. We used to talk to each other when I was real younger, when I was in middle school. He was into that whole gang mess and all that. I was like, you know what? I ain't got time for no gang boys. No Bloods, no Crips, no nothing. You know, I'm worried about being in school right now. You got to get yourself together. When you get yourself together, then you can come holler at me.

He really did. Four years later, he came and talked to me on Facebook and was like, "What's up? How you doing? How you been?" Come to find out he was working. He's a seafood clerk at Giants. He's at school to be a lawyer at CCBC. He's a real good man. He turned into a great young man. I'm very proud of him. They say there's a lot of fish in the sea, but how many of them are good? So yeah, I pulled a good one.

Speaker 2:

It sounds like you might be on to a good way to get guys to go on the straight and narrow.

Jada Watson:

Yeah. All you young girls out there, if you got somebody that you really like, but they not doing good by theirself, you tell them you gone. If they really want you, they got to get theirself together and come back, no matter how long they take, whether they take two years, four years like Brandon took, or whatever. Just once they got their self together, then tell them come holler at you. That's the way you're supposed to do it.