

# MY SON

by Tanner, Operation No Limits

My son's name is Landon. I remember the day my fiancé told me she was pregnant. At first, I had no idea what to think. I was only 16 and she was just 18. Then I really thought about it... thought about how much I was in love with her. I had been with my fiancé since fourth grade and she is the only girl I have ever been with. When I really thought about it, I was really excited and happy she was pregnant. I knew I was going to be with her for the rest of my life before the pregnancy even came up.

I grew up very hard. I lived on the streets with my brother while my parents battled addiction. We sold drugs to keep our house and pay bills because my parents were either never home, or too messed up to pay the bills or even think about them. I was involved with a gang that my brother got me into. I watched my best friend I grew up with get burned alive. I've seen over 50 people killed in front of me, one also being my brother that "took care of me." He was shot in the head on a drive by.

My fiancé on the other hand, grew up very opposite of how I did. I guess it's kind of why I fell in love with her. She had both of her parents and her brothers and sister. They were a normal functioning family I'll just say. She stuck by my side through everything. She knew everything about my life and what I'd been through and dealt with. From my addiction to Heroin to living a criminal gang life. She never once judged me. She was what saved me from killing myself numerous times.

When my son was born, I remember looking at him and whispering to him, "I am never going to let anything hurt you baby boy. I will protect you from anything." I cried when I first saw him. He was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. He was from me and the girl I was going to spend the rest of my life with. "We made this precious angel," I remember saying to her. From there on, I told myself I am going to fix myself, try and turn my life

around. It has been the hardest thing for me. If my son hadn't been born, I honestly don't know where my life would have taken me. I honestly think I would have killed myself by now. My baby boy saved my life. Now, I just have to keep taking the steps to be a better me, and make sure he has a great life with everything he desires.