

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of James Brown. The image is split vertically: the left side is yellow and the right side is red. James Brown's face is rendered in a graphic style with bold black outlines and flat areas of yellow, red, and white. He is looking slightly to the right with a slight smile. His hair is black. The background is a solid yellow on the left and solid red on the right.

XAVIER FAUTHOUX

**BLACK
AND
PROUD**

**JAMES
BROWN**

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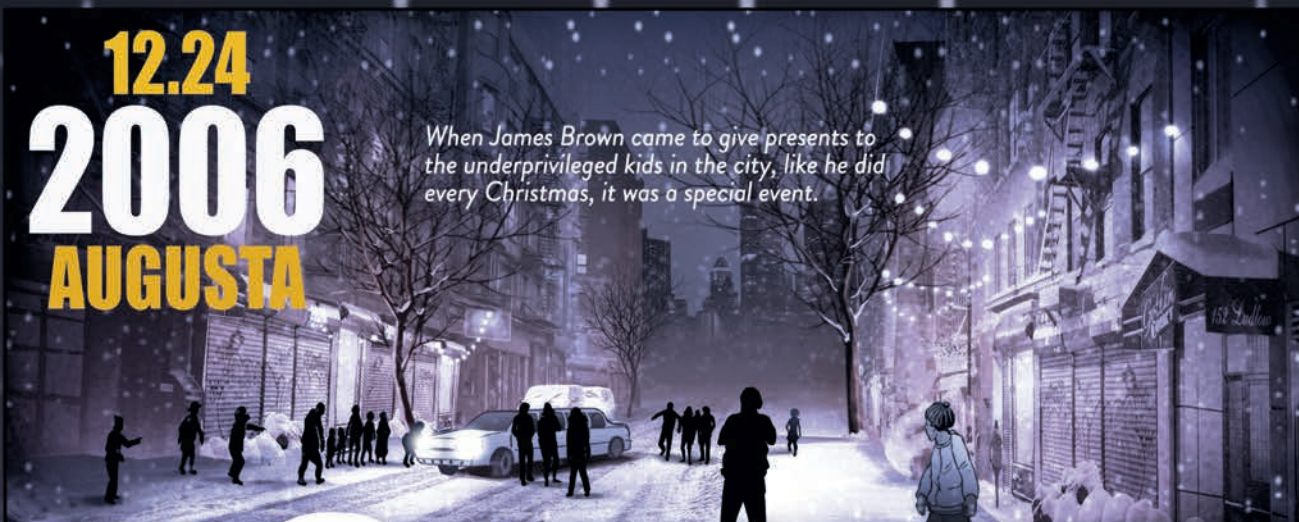
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12.24
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AUGUSTA

When James Brown came to give presents to the underprivileged kids in the city, like he did every Christmas, it was a special event.



TATION CENTER



Living legend and benevolent grandfather figure, he was adored by everyone. Accompanied by his wife, Tomi Rae, James was happy to sign a few autographs and spread the good word.



WHEN I WAS A KID, I HAD NOTHING.

I LIVED ALONE WITH MY DAD, WHO WORKED HARD SO WE COULD EAT WHEN WE WERE HUNGRY.

AT SIXTEEN, I WAS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR KIDS IN THE TERRY, BUT I ENDED UP IN PRISON.

SO DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE. YOU'RE NOT WORTH ANY LESS THAN ANYONE ELSE. KEEP YOUR CHIN UP AND BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE.



MISTER BROWN. YOU'VE HAD A FEW HEALTH PROBLEMS RECENTLY. HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW?

I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER! YOU KNOW, I'M ONE OF THE LIVING SYMBOLS OF OUR COMMUNITY. AND AS LONG AS THE KIDS HERE ARE SMILING...

...YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO BE HERE EVERY YEAR...



AHHH! TOMI...

JAMES? OH MY GOD... JAMES?!

CALL AN AMBULANCE! QUICK!

In pain, James Brown was urgently taken to Emory Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta.



DAMN IT, MY LUNGS ARE DONE... I THINK I'M REALLY SLIPPING AWAY THIS TIME... THIS DAMN BRONCHITIS IS GOING TO GET THE BEST OF ME.



DYING ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
WHAT A JOKE!



LOOK AT ALL THESE JOURNALISTS... THEY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO PUSH A KID OVER JUST TO GRAB A PHOTO OF JAMES BROWN LAID LOW...



THEY WON'T GET ME.

AND WHATEVER THEY SAY,
I WON'T DROP MY GUARD...
I'D RATHER DIE STANDING UP
THAN LIVE ON MY KNEES.



IN THE END, THE HARDEST PART ABOUT THIS BUSINESS IS FIGURING OUT WHEN TO PACK YOUR BAGS AND TAKE A BOW. MAYBE THE LORD WILL FINALLY TAKE ME TO HEAVEN... OR MAYBE NOT...



I KNOW THAT I WAS
NEVER A CHOIR BOY, AND
GOD KNOWS I'VE SINNED.

BUT I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A
CHOICE, OR ANY TIME TO FEEL SORRY
FOR MYSELF. I HAD TO SURVIVE...



WHEN YOU CAN SEE
THE SKY THROUGH THE
ROOF OF YOUR HOUSE,
WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE
EARTH THROUGH THE
BOARDS OF YOUR FLOOR,
IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOUR NEXT MEAL
IS COMING FROM, THEN
YOU, MY FRIEND,
ARE POOR.

-1-

NO FAMiLY

