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A View from the Roof –
Lessons for Life & Business
By Calvin Mackie, Ph.D.
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Calvin Mackie's
A View from the Roof – Lessons for Life & Business
With stories from Willie Mackie Jr., and a Special Foreword by Anthony Mackie,
star of Spike Lee's *She Hate Me & Sucker Free City*

From sharecroppers to Hollywood film stars, this new book offers an intimate look at three generations of self-made men, and the wisdom that guided them to the top.

Calvin Mackie is a professor at Tulane University. Brother Willie Mackie Jr. is a successful restaurateur. And youngest brother Anthony is a Hollywood leading man who recently starred in Spike Lee's latest film, *She Hate Me*.

The Mackie brothers have each taken a different route to success, but they all have one thing in common. Before they made the Big Time, they served Hard Time – working for their father Willie Sr.'s roofing company on the hot gable rooftops of New Orleans.

In ***A View from the Roof – Lessons for Life & Business***, Presidential award-winning professor Dr. Calvin Mackie brings us right in the front door of his New Orleans home and up on the roof for an intimate look at his tough-as-nails roofer dad Willie Mackie Sr., and his often over-the-top approach to educating his sons. Through poignant and often hilarious vignettes, each chapter highlights a lesson Calvin and his brothers learned from Willie Sr., and offers step-by-step advice for readers to apply these lessons in their own lives. One part memoir, one part motivation, this book offers a Blackberry™ of practical wisdom that will lead anyone to greatness.

Society demands that we be successful, but it doesn't offer ample direction. ***A View from the Roof*** puts you right in Willie Sr.'s classroom on the roof, and teaches you how to:

- Master your craft, dominate your industry, and have more control over your financial fate
- Transform your work into something that is meaningful without leaving your current job
- Bring excellence to everything you do and develop an impeccable reputation for service in the marketplace
- Find the mentor who will nurture your growth and help you make the right professional connections
- Become a source of inspiration, love, and intellectual nourishment for your children
- Conquer the fear of criticism, and be 100% prepared for disaster if and when the time comes

“A View from the Roof will inspire the hip hop and the old school as well as the educated and incarcerated. In sharing the lessons learned from his father, Dr. Calvin Mackie has opened his soul and allowed us to smell the tar, the gumbo, the cut grass, and the love of life that is invaluable to any human being. It is a priceless guide for manhood.”

—C. Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans

Books highlighting the successes of black men are rare; we appreciate the few that get published. In ***A View from the Roof***, Calvin traces the Mackie family back to its humble beginnings on the Louisiana plantations – and carries us to the present where we find the Mackie men now achieving extraordinary things with their lives. We see:

- Calvin’s grandfather struggling to support his family in the segregated South, and defiantly inventing a degree for his trade
- Willie Mackie Sr. build a thriving roofing business of 100 employees with only a ladder, a truck, and an 8th grade education
- Calvin Mackie working his way up to become a professor of mechanical engineering at Tulane University, and inventing a patented luggage safety device for airplanes
- Anthony Mackie working with Spike Lee on his latest film, and well on his way to becoming the next Denzel Washington
- Willie Mackie Jr. constantly butting heads with Willie Sr., but eventually learning to apply his father’s advice for his own business success

“From high-rise buildings I saw that no matter where you lived in the city, regardless of your education or socio-economic position, there were always roads that led out of the darkness and into the light of a promising future. The view from the roof always gave me hope, and the lessons I learned up there were the fuel for the soul that allowed me to make my sojourn in life.”

– Calvin Mackie, excerpt from Introduction

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Calvin Mackie, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of mechanical engineering at Tulane University, and the recipient of the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. He is the President of Channel ZerO, an educational and motivational consulting firm founded initially to address the problem of poor education among the nation’s youth (www.channelzro.com). Calvin has a B.S. in mathematics from Morehouse College, and a B.S., M.S., & Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. He currently resides in New Orleans with his wife and two sons. ***A View from the Roof*** is his first book.

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This book can purchased at www.calvinmackie.com,
and www.acanthuspublishing.com.

