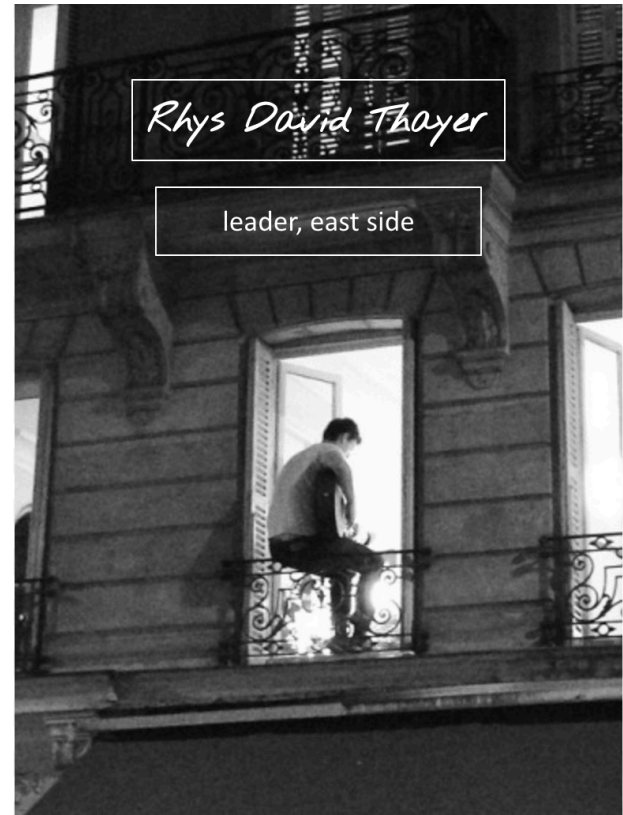




Rhys David Thayer was born on November 24, 1991, to David and Eleanor Thayer. Rhys's first few years were happy ones—thanks to the protection and money earned from Rhys's father's fairly high-ranking position in the East Side gang. That happiness didn't last for long.

The morning of November 24, 1995 seemed to herald an enjoyable day for everyone in the Thayer family. Preparations for Rhys's fourth birthday party were well underway, and the young boy was eagerly awaiting the celebration. Then the news came that David Thayer was dead, killed in an altercation with a West Side gang member, and the day that was supposed to be filled with joyful memories became the day Rhys formed some of his saddest childhood memories. After the family of three became a family of two, Eleanor became paranoid and overprotective, and attempted to sever all ties with the East Siders. Thus Rhys started school with only shadowy memories of his introduction to the life his father had once expected him to lead. As the years passed by, the family began to slip into poverty despite Rhys's mother's struggles to provide the sort of life her husband's affiliation had once enabled the family to enjoy. Eleanor's job as a waitress gave a growing Rhys the gift of more freedom as well as the opportunity to experience the lack of money, power, and protection that would come to shape his desires in life. At the tender age of twelve, Rhys was recruited to be an East Sider himself, easily convinced by the promises of the things he lacked in his life. Although he was disappointed to discover that he wouldn't reap many benefits right away, the gang's ways of life suited him well, and he found it easy to rise in the ranks as he grew older, mostly due to the ease with which he committed the sort of crimes that would earn him respect. His mother was opposed to the idea, of course, but Rhys solved this problem by severing ties with the woman as soon as he could. As far as he was concerned, it was his father's example he wanted to follow, not his mother's overly cautious precedent. Shortly after his twenty-third birthday,

Rhys took advantage of the trust placed in him and the weapons he'd been given to dispose of the people ahead of him. Thanks to a few recent failures, Rhys's persuasion, and the respect the man had earned, the former leaders came to be considered ineffective, and the loyalty of the gang transferred to him. Rhys spends quite a bit of time at the comfortable apartment his illegal activities have enabled him to rent, and prefers to leave the dirty work to his subordinates. However, he is a frequent presence wherever members of the gang congregate, making sure things go as he'd like them to.

