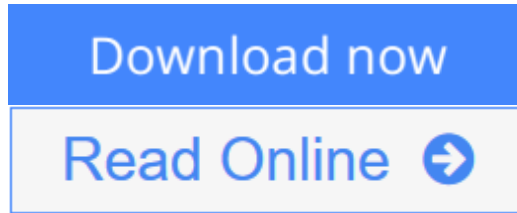


Hip Hop America

By Nelson George



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From Nelson George, supervising producer and writer of the hit Netflix series, "The Get Down, **Hip Hop America** is the definitive account of the society-altering collision between black youth culture and the mass media.

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Hip Hop America By Nelson George Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Although it's been part of the cultural soundscape for over 25 years, hip-hop has been the focus of very few books. And when those books do pop up, they tend to be either overtly scholarly, as if the writer in question has just landed on some alien planet, or a bit too much like a fanzine. If there's anyone qualified to write a solid, informative, and entertaining tome on the culture, politics, and business of hip-hop, it's Nelson George. A veteran journalist, George is one of the smartest and most observant chroniclers of African American pop culture. Much as he broke down and illuminated R&B with his acclaimed book *The Death of Rhythm and Blues*, George now tackles hip-hop with the clarity of a reporter and the enthusiasm of a fan--which is fitting, because George is both. A Brooklyn native, he began writing about rap back in the late 1970s, when the beats and the lifestyle were not only foreign to most white folks, they were still underground in the black communities. *Hip Hop America* is filled with George's memories of the scene's nascent years, and it tells the story of rap both as an art form and a cultural and economic force--from the old Bronx nightclub the Fever to the age of Puffy. Highlighting both the major players and some of the forces behind the scenes, George gives rap a historical perspective without coming off as too intellectual. All of which makes *Hip Hop America* a worthwhile addition to any fan's collection. --Amy Linden

From Publishers Weekly

George (*The Death of Rhythm and Blues*) calls this wide-ranging history of hip-hop a "book of memory" and compares his relationship with the music to a love affair. A portrait not just of the music but of the whole culture coalescing around beats and rhymes, from graffiti to break dancing and basketball, George's narrative sometimes jumps from topic to topic like the fragmentary soundscapes of his subject. Nonetheless, he does follow a loose, anecdotal trajectory from the "post-soul" era of the early 1980s through the Old School to the New School, through gangsta rap to the latest innovators. Often, detours seem to be taken solely because George couldn't bear to drop material, and the writing can seem hasty. One may disagree with certain assessments (he says of trendy vocalist and hip-hop impresario Puff Daddy, "Never in the history of postwar black pop has a single man done so much so well"), but quibbling aside, the author's knowledge and passion run deep. George conveys a continuing excitement and personal investment rather than pretending critical distance, still rethinking his own past positions. Most refreshingly, while an advocate, he is blunt and perceptive in areas where traditional hip-hop advocates can be blindly protective. The book is at its best when George is more commentator than chronicler; one wishes more space had been devoted to exploration of many provocative issues raised in passing: Is democracy good for art? Why no great women rappers? One such thought George offers is that art can be suffocated when "loved too well by the people [it was] intended to make uncomfortable"; the best audience for these memories may turn out to be those outsiders rather than hip-hop purists.-- intended to make uncomfortable"; the best audience for these memories may turn out to be those outsiders rather than hip-hop purists.

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From Library Journal

A long way from two turntables and a microphone, this latest sojourn into rap culture by novelist and music critic George (*Seduced*, LJ 3/15/96) is no less than a nonlinear documentary of an industry and its players, pawns, artists, and affected media. Using behind-the-scenes diatribe and backroom dish, George interprets a seemingly amorphous cultural-commercial conglomerate, shaping the last 20 years into a jagged R&B musical time line that begins in the Bronx, slides through the disco age, and ends halfway around the world. Such is the style of his delivery that one minute he is discussing "tags [graffiti art], mixing, MCing and breakdancing" as principle foundations within hip hop's roots while the next he is blaming crack as the

progenitor of Uzi-riddled "Gangsta rap." Much like the art form itself, this work meanders as it informs. A welcome addition to most pop culture collections. ?Ahmad Wright, "Library Journal"
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Hudson:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Hip Hop America book is readable by simply you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving Hip Hop America content conveys objective easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different available as it. So , do you even now thinking Hip Hop America is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

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Richard Graham:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Hip Hop America it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

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