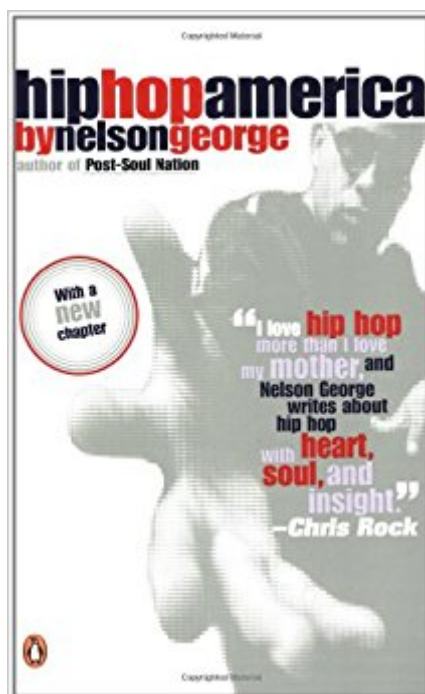


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Hip Hop America



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (38 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I read this book for an African-American Studies class at UNC. At first I did not like it at all. I did not connect with George's choice of language, which seemed outdated and out of touch with current hip hop lingo. But as I got into the book, I realized that this outdated language was not George's fault. After all, as George himself points out in a section about hip hop movies, trends and lingo in hip hop change too quickly for anyone to keep up without a very detailed scorecard. So if you can get past him using somewhat outdated language, this is a great book. George manages to discuss a wide array of topics, from graffiti to break dancing to production and distribution of records to hip hop themed movies to hip hop lingo to the proliferation of hip hop around the world. Despite the very diverse topics, George manages to tie everything to a common theme, the impact of hip hop on American culture. If I had to pick one aspect of the book that was especially good, I would have to choose his discussion of the roots of hip hop and its early days. As a native of New York during hip hop's formative years, George is very well informed on the topic and indeed was a witness to many key events in the early days of hip hop. He also has connections with many key figures, throughout the time period covered in the book, and he is able to recall these connections to tell unique stories

you cannot find anywhere else. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of hip hop. It is a quick, enjoyable, and informative read.

Of all the Hip Hop related works that I've read (and that's many), none can reach the insightful level of Nelson George's "Hip Hop America", which not only covers the history of the culture, but more importantly, delivers the sociological aspects of it, explaining not only "when", but also "how" and "why". It made me an instant fan of Nelson George. It's a very informative, sincere and to some extent analytical book, with plenty of facts and informations and first-hand experiences from the man "who has not only witnessed the evolution of hip-hop, but who. . . has had a hand in shaping it, as well." (The New York Times Book Review). I could really write a long review for this great book, but I'll probably do that after my second reading, which starts NOW!

I read Hip Hop America. Not because I had ever heard of Nelson George or heard of his credits. Because I saw it, flipped a few pages and decided to read it. I loved it. I have been listening to hip hop music since the first time I spun Schooly D's PSK track. And Nelson George hits the nail on the head. He covers almost everything I could have wanted, although I would have liked more coverage on Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul as opposed to so much NWA material. What I liked best is how George is neither a critic or a fan (excluding PE of course). He's just an inside observer. He doesn't take many bias opinions, he just presents them. And the way he picks on not only hip hop culture, but things that affected hip hop and what hip hop has affected. Examples are Blaxploitation movies and Basketball in the 80's and 90's. If anyone is a smart hip hop fan then I recommend this book. I'm not talking about people who buy whatever is cool now (if you have a puff daddy album or a Bel Biv DeVoe album but don't listen to it anymore than I don't recommend this book), I'm talking straight up real hip hop fans. I also don't recommend this book for people who are trying to learn about hip hop. It's gonna be like a foreign language. So give this book a try

Until I read this book, I was never much on hip-hop. Reason being: I didn't understand it. This book answered all those lingering questions that always kept me from either liking or, failing that, appreciating it as both a genre and a cultural force. From the origins of hip hop to the current state of events, this book covers it all. Would have given it 5, but the book sometimes seems to linger on certain aspects of the genre overmuch, throwing off the balance of the history being told.

Nevertheless, this doesn't ruin the book, and it may just be I'm not one for lengthy asides on certain aspects of subject matter. In any event, worth your \$, and a great eye-opener in the "what you

always wanted to know, but had no idea who to ask" category.

One of America's foremost hip-hop journalists, this book is essential to understanding both the positives and negatives of hip-hop music in both its past and present forms. George displays an excellent knowledge of both street and music industry politics in discussing a musical genre all too commonly lacking enough intellectualism. Understandable for everyone from the button down white collar worker of Wall Street to the average street thug, this book is recommended reading for both those knowledgeable with hip-hop and those who are not.

I've listened to hip hop music for 16 years and Nelson George filled in all the blanks of things I wish I understood better. From the internal conflict at the Source magazine, to the story of several hip hop producers including Puff Daddy, Teddy Riley, and Dr. Dre as well as the record execs behind the scenes like Andre Harrell, etc...Nelson George covers it all. I loved this book. It does not describe hip hop as a dance or an artist or a song, but as the cultural phenomenon it has become.

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