

The Wu Tang Manual

Conversations With The Creators Behind The Best Cover Art From the Wu-Tang Clan and Their Killa Beez Affiliates

Published to coincide with the band's 50th anniversary, a memoir by one of the Grateful Dead's founding members shares insights into their improvisational style, their survival of shared and personal tragedies and their collaborations with a wide range of fellow artists.

Illustrations.

In over thirty years as one of the most original and charismatic figures in modern music, Prince Rogers Nelson has enjoyed huge success – and courted considerable controversy. Now, acclaimed rock journalist Ronin Ro chronicles both the man and his music. During the course of his journey from teenage obscurity to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Prince has provoked moral outrage, starred in a hit movie, adopted an unpronounceable symbol for a stage name, confronted record labels and fostered young talent, making a profound mark on the entertainment industry and pop culture at large. Moreover, his restless creativity has produced a string of international hits including 'Little Red Corvette', 'Let's Go

Crazy', 'Kiss' and 'Cream', and at the height of his fame the album Purple Rain was selling at a rate of a million copies a week in the US alone. Through access to an unrivalled array of witnesses to Prince's remarkable rise, including former producers, bandmates and managers, Ronin Ro gets closer to him than any previous biographer, peeling away the masks to lay bare the story of a true modern icon.

"Each of these chambers contains wonders of history, destiny, and mythology. Chamber Music is hip hop as race and class politics, as music and as poetry on the move. Through Ashon's vibrant textured prose we watch in awe as these young men seize on whatever the culture has to offer, sampling leftovers and legacies, making themselves into ferocious artists" --Margo Jefferson, award-winning author of Negroland "Stylistically loaded, reckless, funny, naked, thorough, thoughtful, mysterious, devastating, unrelenting, and compassionate. One of the most rewarding pieces of hip hop criticism ever written."--Jeff Chang, author of We Gon' Be All Right: Notes on Race and Resegregation and Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation Will Ashon tells, in 36 interlinked "chambers", the story of Enter the Wu-Tang (36

Chambers) and how it changed the world. As unexpected and complex as the album itself, Chamber Music ranges from provocative essays to semi-comic skits, from deep scholarly analysis to satirical celebration, seeking to contextualize, reveal and honor this singular work of art. Chamber Music is an explosive and revelatory new way of writing about music and culture.

Wu-Tang and America (in 36 Pieces)

Inside the Music and the Masks

The Art of Ghostface Killah

The Nine Rings of Wu-Tang

The Untold Story of Wu-Tang Clan's Million-Dollar Secret Album, the Devaluation of Music, and America's New Public Enemy

A History of Popular Music in Seven Genres

From the founder of the Wu-Tang Clan—celebrating their 25th anniversary this year—an inspirational book for the hip hop fan. The RZA, founder of the Wu-Tang Clan, imparts the lessons he's learned on his journey from the Staten Island projects to international superstardom. A devout student of knowledge in every form in which he's found it, he distills here the wisdom he's acquired into seven "pillars," each based on a formative event in his

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life—from the moment he first heard the call of hip-hop to the death of his cousin and Clan-mate, Russell Jones, aka ODB. Delivered in RZA's unmistakable style, at once surprising, profound, and provocative, *The Tao of Wu* is a spiritual memoir the world has never seen before, and will never see again. A nonfiction Siddhartha for the hip-hop generation from the author of *The Wu-Tang Manual*, it will enlighten, entertain, and inspire.

Do you know who - and what - you are? Do you know who you're meant to be? Do you know how to find the answers to questions like these? Knowledge of Self is the result of a process of self-discovery, but few of us know where to begin when we're ready to start looking deeper. Although self-actualization is the highest of all human needs, it is said that only 5% of people ever attain this goal. In the culture of the Nation of Gods and Earths, commonly known as the Five Percent, students are instructed that they must first learn themselves, then their worlds, and then what they must do in order to transform their world for the better. This often

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intense process has produced thousands of revolutionary thinkers in otherwise desperate environments, where poverty and hopelessness dominate. Until now, few mainstream publications have captured the brilliant yet practical perspectives of these luminary men and women. Knowledge of Self: A Collection of Writings on the Science of Everything in Life presents the thoughts of Five Percenters, both young and old, male and female, from all over the globe, in their own words. Through essays, poems, and even how-to articles, this anthology presents readers with an accurate portrait of what the Five Percent study and teach, as well as sound direction on how to answer timeless questions like: Who am I, and why am I here? Why is there so much injustice in the world, and what can be done about it? Who is God and where on Earth is he? How do I improve myself without losing myself? Why are people of color in the situations they're in? What can we do about the global problems of racism and poverty? Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists is more popular than racism! Hip hop is huge,

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and it's time someone wrote it all down. And got it all right. With over 25 aggregate years of interviews, and virtually every hip hop single, remix and album ever recorded at their disposal, the highly respected Ego Trip staff are the ones to do it. The Book of Rap Lists runs the gamut of hip hop information. This is an exhaustive, indispensable and completely irreverent bible of true hip hop knowledge. A passionate, critically incisive biography of one of the most influential rappers of all time, Tupac Shakur, and how he came to dominate hip-hop in the 1990s

The Rap Year Book

Prince

My Infamous Life

A Collection of Wisdom on the Science of Everything in Life

How Nine Men Changed Hip-Hop Forever

Mo' Meta Blues

The Gospel of Hip Hop: First Instrument, the first book from the I Am Hip Hop, is the philosophical masterwork of KRS ONE. Set in the format of the Christian Bible, this 800-plus-page opus is a life-guide manual for members of Hip Hop Kulture that combines classic philosophy with faith and practical knowledge for a fascinating, in-depth exploration of Hip Hop as a life path. Known as "The Teacha," KRS ONE

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developed his unique outlook as a homeless teen in Brooklyn, New York, engaging his philosophy of self-creation to become one of the most respected emcees in Hip Hop history. Respected as Hip Hop's true steward, KRS ONE painstakingly details the development of the culture and the ways in which we, as "Hiphoppas," can and should preserve its future. "The Teacha" also discusses the origination of Hip Hop Kulture and relays specific instances in history wherein one can discover the same spirit and ideas that are at the core of Hip Hop's current manifestation. He explains Hip Hop down to the actual meaning and linguistic history of the words "hip" and "hop," and describes the ways in which "Hiphoppas" can change their current circumstances to create a future that incorporates Health, Love, Awareness, and Wealth (H-LAW). Committed to fervently promoting self-reliance, dedicated study, peace, unity, and truth, The "Teacha" has drawn both criticism and worship from within and from outside of Hip Hop Kulture. In this beautifully written, inspiring book, KRS ONE shines the light of truth, from his own empirical research over a 14-year period, into the fascinating world of Hip Hop. A New York Times – bestselling, in-depth exploration of the most pivotal moments in rap music from 1979 to 2014. Here's what The Rap Year Book does: It takes readers from 1979, widely regarded as the moment rap became recognized as part of the cultural and musical landscape, and comes right up to the present, with Shea Serrano hilariously discussing, debating, and deconstructing the most important rap song year by year. Serrano also examines the most important moments that surround the history and culture of rap music—from artists' backgrounds to issues of race, the rise of hip-hop, and the struggles among its major players—both personal and professional. Covering East Coast and West Coast, famous rapper feuds, chart toppers, and show stoppers, The Rap Year Book is an in-depth look at the most

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influential genre of music to come out of the last generation. Picked by Billboard as One of the 100 Greatest Music Books of All-Time Pitchfork Book Club's first selection Can't Stop Won't Stop is a powerful cultural and social history of the end of the American century, and a provocative look into the new world that the hip-hop generation created. Forged in the fires of the Bronx and Kingston, Jamaica, hip-hop became the Esperanto of youth rebellion and a generation-defining movement. In a post-civil rights era defined by deindustrialization and globalization, hip-hop crystallized a multiracial, polycultural generation's worldview, and transformed American politics and culture. But that epic story has never been told with this kind of breadth, insight, and style. Based on original interviews with DJs, b-boys, rappers, graffiti writers, activists, and gang members, with unforgettable portraits of many of hip-hop's forebears, founders, and mavericks, including DJ Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, Chuck D, and Ice Cube, Can't Stop Won't Stop chronicles the events, the ideas, the music, and the art that marked the hip-hop generation's rise from the ashes of the 60's into the new millennium.

"A complete guide to the art and craft of the MC, anyone who's serious about becoming a rapper should read this first."

-Hip Hop Connection magazine "A clever breakdown of the art form of hip-hop rhymes... It's about time someone actually recognized this powerful music for its artistic integrity."

-Speech, Arrested Development Examining the dynamics of hip-hop from every region and in every form-mainstream and underground, current and classic-this compelling how-to discusses everything from content and flow to rhythm and delivery. Compiled from the most extensive research on rapping to date, this first-of-its-kind guide delivers countless candid and exclusive insights from more than 100 of the most critically acclaimed artists in hip-hop-including Clipse,

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Cypress Hill, Nelly, Public Enemy, Remy Ma, Schoolly D, A Tribe Called Quest, and will.i.am-revealing the stories behind their art and preserving the genre's history through the words of the legends themselves. Beginners and pros alike will benefit from the wealth of rapping lore and insight in this remarkable collection."--

Mixed Company

Once Upon a Time in Shaolin

The Autobiography of Mobb Deep's Prodigy

Decoded

Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists

Bobby Digital and The Pit of Snakes

"For all y'all smart dumb cats out there."

Legendary Hip Hop artist Ghostface Killah settles into one of his most popular characters, Pretty Toney, and offers readers a hilariously unique perspective on life via guides to and advice on everything from sex to gambling, family to education, even how to eat on just \$5 a day, better known as "The Hustler's Diet". A singular twist on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People for the Hip Hop generation complete with illustrative photos. Born as a series of shorts on MTV2, Pretty Toney and his musings quickly became a channel and online hit, with fans uploading the shorts on YouTube and circulating them virally. The book will also include a CD of Ghostface reading the material, the perfect accompaniment to enjoying the

book. As one of the original members of the seminal 90s rap crew the Wu-Tang Clan, Ghostface Killah made an impact before he released his debut album, "Ironman", late in 1996. Like all members of the Wu-Tang Clan, the rapper used the group as a launching pad for a successful solo career and "Ironman" debuted at number two on the pop chart. His work with Wu-Tang continues, as does his solo career. His 2006 album "Fishscale" was a top ten hit and on many top ten lists for album of the year.

Legendary wordsmith Raekwon the Chef opens up about his journey from the staircases of Park Hill in Staten Island to sold-out stadiums around the world with Wu-Tang Clan in this revealing memoir—perfect for fans of *The Autobiography of Gucci Mane* and *Hustle Harder, Hustle Smarter*. There are rappers who everyone loves and there are rappers who every rapper loves, and Corey Woods, a.k.a. Raekwon the Chef, is one of the few who is both. His versatile flow, natural storytelling, and evocative imagery have inspired legions of fans and a new generation of rappers. Raekwon is one of the founding members of Wu-Tang Clan, and his voice and cadence are synonymous with the sound that has made the group iconic since 1991. Now, for the

first time, Raekwon tells his whole story, from struggling through poverty in order to make ends meet to turning a hobby into a legacy. The Wu-Tang tale is dense, complex, and full of drama, and here nothing is off-limits: the group's origins, secrets behind songs like "C.R.E.A.M." and "Protect Ya Neck," and what it took to be one of the first hip-hop groups to go from the underground to the mainstream. Raekwon also delves deep into the making of his meticulous solo albums—particularly the classic *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx*—and talks about how spirituality and fatherhood continue to inspire his unstoppable creative process. A celebration of perseverance and the power of music, *From Staircase to Stage* is a master storyteller's lifelong journey to stay true to himself and his roots. Who are you, what is real? This is the question Bobby Digital is seeking to answer. Embracing his id, ego and superego he embarks on a quest to figure out the nature of his reality and himself. He will be ambushed by enemies unknown, he will be tried in ways most men can't endure. Will he be victorious? Most of all will he survive the Pit of Snakes?! From the mind of the legendary RZA, Bobby Digital and *The Pit of Snakes* will coincide with the

relaunch of the iconic character and be synced to music that will melt your mind. A photographic look into the world of vinyl record collectors—including Questlove—in the most intimate of environments—their record rooms. Compelling photographic essays from photographer Eilon Paz are paired with in-depth and insightful interviews to illustrate what motivates these collectors to keep digging for more records. The reader gets an up close and personal look at a variety of well-known vinyl champions, including Gilles Peterson and King Britt, as well as a glimpse into the collections of known and unknown DJs, producers, record dealers, and everyday enthusiasts. Driven by his love for vinyl records, Paz takes us on a five-year journey unearthing the very soul of the vinyl community.

The Most Important Rap Song From Every Year Since 1979, Discussed, Debated, and Deconstructed

A Trip through Hip Hop's 36 Chambers Deal: My Three Decades of Drumming, Dreams, and Drugs with the Grateful Dead
The Wu-Tang Saga

Dust & Grooves

From Staircase to Stage

In the beginning, he was one of nine—the Wu-

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Tang Clan's first swordsman. But much more than just 11.11% of a greater entity, Ghostface Killah established himself as a seminal rapper in hip-hop history and one of the greatest artists to skulk the planet. In a series of essays that blend music criticism, cultural examination, and personal appreciation, Dean Van Nguyen examines every side of Ghost's bionic make-up. This essential collection is for students of East Coast rap, comic book culture, grindhouse cinema, and New York history. Most of all, it's for fans of the almighty Ghostface Killah, one of the most thrilling, fascinating rappers of our time.

The Wu-Tang Manual is The RZA's first written introduction to the philosophy and history of Hip-Hop's original Dynasty, the Wu-Tang Clan. Written in a style that is at once personal and philosophical, The Wu-Tang Manual unravels the intricate web of personalities (and alter egos), warrior codes, numerological systems, and Eastern spiritual ethics that define the Wu-Tang dynasty. Packed with information that reflects the breadth and depth of the RZA's — and rest of the Clan's — intellectual interests and passions, The Wu-Tang Manual is divided into four books of nine chambers each, for a total of 36 chambers. All together, the book provides the breakdown of essential Wu-Tang components, from basic information about each of the nine core members of Wu-Tang Clan to deeper explorations of the key themes of the

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Wu-Tang universe, a dictionary-like Wu-Slang lexicon, and an entire section of Wu-Tang lyrics with densely annotated explanations of what they mean. For the hardcore Wu-Tang disciple and the recent initiate alike, The Wu-Tang Manual is the definitive guide to the essence of Wu, one of the most innovative hip-hop groups of all time. The RZA's most recent book, The Tao of Wu, is also available from Riverhead Books.

Nine men from the poorest neighborhoods in America changed hip-hop forever, when Wu-Tang Clan dropped their seminal debut album, "Enter The Wu-Tang: 36 Chambers", twenty years ago. This book is an exploration of how the Clan planned its takeover of pop culture, dating all the way back to Rza's entrepreneurial schemes to get money to buy music equipment, from the tender age of eleven. This recounting of the rise of the Clan from poverty to global fame and fortune can inspire anyone to overcome any obstacle. Read this book to find out how they did it. (Faber Piano Adventures). PreTime Piano Kids' Songs is a collection of songs that brings special joy to children. The simplicity, humor, and charm of the selections will enhance the enjoyment of beginning piano for students and parents alike. After all, many of these songs have been passed down from generation to generation: A-Tisket, A-Tasket * Bingo * The Dwarfs' Yodel Song (The Silly Song) * Happy Birthday to You * Mail Myself to You * Mickey

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Mouse March * On Top of Spaghetti * The Train Song * Winnie the Pooh. The PreTime Piano series provides the earliest level of reading for the beginning pianist. There are no dotted rhythms and eighth notes are used only sparingly. Tasteful illustrations and use of color add to the charm of the books.

Iron Age

Can't Stop Won't Stop

Adventures in Record Collecting

Deep in the Dark with the Art

Chamber Music

The Gospel of Hip Hop

36 Chambers...9 Rings...1 Wu-Tang Clan! This series is loosely based on the mega-popular hip-hop group, the Wu-Tang Clan. A fantasy created from the harsh reality of life on the streets where only warriors survive. There once lived a day when mysticism and science blended into the balance of yin and yang, and men still possessed the memory that they were more than simple earthbound mammals. Out of those murky winds arose a group of nomadic warriors who banded together for survival; they became the Wu-Tang Clan. Nine Moorish warriors, martial artists of the highest calibre, individually fearless, unstoppable as a team. The known world became their kingdom, and morality became their highest cause. With them, they would carry the ark of knowledge and the spark for future remembrance.

The Wu-Tang Manual Penguin

In Mixed Company Jenny Shank reveals moments of grace and connection between people of her hometown, Denver, through stories that contrast the city during its oil-bust era of economic troubles and court-ordered crosstown busing for racial desegregation with the burgeoning and gentrifying city of recent years. In "Casa del Rey," a cautious pregnant woman must

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contend with her out-of-control and intrusive neighbor. In “Hurts,” a girls’ basketball team at a majority Black Denver high school clashes with a white mountain team. In “La Sexycana,” a bottom-feeding journalist ventures to a dance club to confront the young Latina woman she mentored as a teenager who then cut off all contact with her. “Lightest Lights Against Darkest Darks” follows a white middle schooler bused to a majority Black school who falls under the spell of her magnetic and racially ambiguous art teacher. In “Signing for Linemen,” a graduate student in medieval literature takes a job as a summer tutor for a college football team and ends up learning more than she expected about athletes, American Sign Language, and herself. In “Local Honey,” middle-aged white parents bring their adopted Black teenage son to a Wu-Tang Clan concert in an attempt to bond with him. Characters find their initial perceptions and ideas overturned in these stories laced with humor, heart, and grit. Jenny Shank forges fiction out of the sparks that fly when diverse people encounter one another.

Decoded is a book like no other: a collection of lyrics and their meanings that together tell the story of a culture, an art form, a moment in history, and one of the most provocative and successful artists of our time. Praise for Decoded “Compelling . . . provocative, evocative . . . Part autobiography, part lavishly illustrated commentary on the author’s own work, Decoded gives the reader a harrowing portrait of the rough worlds Jay-Z navigated in his youth, while at the same time deconstructing his lyrics.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “One of a handful of books that just about any hip hop fan should own.”—*The New Yorker* “Elegantly designed, incisively written . . . an impressive leap by a man who has never been known for small steps.”—*Los Angeles Times* “A riveting exploration of Jay-Z’s journey . . . So thoroughly engrossing, it reads like a good piece of cultural journalism.”—*The Boston Globe* “Shawn

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Carter's most honest airing of the experiences he drew on to create the mythic figure of Jay-Z . . . The scenes he recounts along the way are fascinating."—Entertainment Weekly "Hip-hop's renaissance man drops a classic. . . . Heartfelt, passionate and slick."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

The Wu-Tang Manual

Knowledge of Self

The Life and Times of an American Icon

Stories

The Tao of Wu

PreTime Piano Kids' Songs - Primer Level

"You have to bear in mind that [Questlove] is one of the smartest motherf*****s on the planet. His musical knowledge, for all practical purposes, is limitless."

--Robert Christgau MO' META BLUES The World

According to Questlove Mo' Meta Blues is a punch-drunk memoir in which Everyone's Favorite Questlove tells his own story while tackling some of the lates, t greats, the fakes, the philosophers, the heavyweights, and the true originals of the music world. He digs deep into the album cuts of his life and unearths some pivotal moments in black art, hip hop, and pop culture. Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson is many things: virtuoso drummer, producer, arranger, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon bandleader, DJ, composer, and tireless Tweeter. He is one of our most ubiquitous cultural tastemakers, and in this, his first book, he reveals his own formative experiences--from growing up in 1970s West Philly as the son of a 1950s doo-w singer, to finding his own way through the music

world and ultimately co-founding and rising up with the Roots, a.k.a., the last hip hop band on Earth. Mo' Meta Blues also has some (many) random (or not) musings about the state of hip hop, the state of music criticism, the state of statements, as well as a plethora of run-ins with celebrities, idols, and fellow artists, from Stevie Wonder to KISS to D'Angelo to Jay-Z to Dave Chappelle to...you ever seen Prince roller-skate?!? But Mo' Meta Blues isn't just a memoir. It's a dialogue about the nature of memory and the idea of post-modern black man saddled with some post-modern blues. It's a book that questions what a book like Mo' Meta Blues really is. It's the side wind of a one-of-a-kind mind. It's a rare gift that gives as well as takes. It's a record that keeps going around and around.

An illustrated highlight reel of more than 100 women in rap who have helped shape the genre and eschewed gender norms in the process *The Motherlode* highlights more than 100 women who have shaped the power, scope, and reach of rap music, including pioneers like Roxanne Shanté, game changers like Lauryn Hill and Missy Elliott, and current reigning queens like Nicki Minaj, Cardi B, and Lizzo—as well as everyone who came before, after, and in between. Some of these women were respected but not widely celebrated. Some are impossible not to know. Some of these women have stood on their own; others were forced into templates, compelled to stand beside men

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in big rap crews. Some have been trapped in a strange critical space between respected MC and object. They are characters, caricatures, lyricists, at times both feminine and explicit. This book profiles each of these women, their musical and career breakthroughs, and the ways in which they each helped change the culture of rap.

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.P. Putnam's Sons.

On the tenth anniversary of his death, *The Dirty Version* is the first biography of hip hop superstar and founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan, Ol' Dirty Bastard, to be written by someone from his inner circle: his right-hand man and best friend, Buddha Monk. Ol' Dirty Bastard rocketed to fame with the Wu-Tang Clan, the raucous and renegade group that altered the world of hip hop forever. ODB was one of the Clan's wildest icons and most inventive performers, and when he died of an overdose in 2004 at the age of thirty-five, millions of fans mourned the loss. ODB lives on in epic proportions and his antics are legend: he once picked up his welfare check in a limousine; lifted a burning car off a four-year-old girl in Brooklyn; stole a fifty-dollar pair of sneakers on tour at the peak of his success. Many have questioned whether his stunts were carefully calculated or the

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result of paranoia and mental instability. Now, Dirty's friend since childhood, Buddha Monk, a Wu-Tang collaborator on stage and in the studio, reveals the truth about the complex and talented performer. From their days together on the streets of Brooklyn to the meteoric rise of Wu-Tang's star, from bouts in prison to court-mandated rehab, from Dirty's favorite kind of pizza to his struggles with fame and success, Buddha tells the real story—The Dirty Version—of the legendary rapper.

A Cultural Odyssey

Hip-Hop

The Motherlode

The World According to Pretty Toney

The Story of Raekwon and the Wu-Tang Clan

A History of the Hip-Hop Generation

The untold story of the world's most controversial album---a surreal tale of secret recordings, the Wu-Tang Clan, baffled customs agents, the world's most hallowed art institutions, and a villain of comic book proportions: Martin Shkreli. In 2007, the innovative young Wu-Tang producer, Cilvaringz, took an incendiary idea to his mentor the RZA. They felt that the impact of digitization threatened the sustainability of the record industry and independent artists, while shifting the perception of music from treasured works of art to disposable consumer products.

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Together they conceived a statement so radical that it would unleash a torrent of global debate---a sole copy of an album in physical form, encased in gleaming silver and sold through an auction house for millions as a work of contemporary art. The execution of this plan raised a number of complex questions: Would selling an album for millions be the ultimate betrayal of music? How would fans react to an album that's sold on the condition that it could not be commercialized? And could anyone ever justify the selling of the album to the infamous Martin Shkreli? As headlines flashed across the globe, the mystery only deepened. Opinions were sharply divided over whether this was high art or hucksterism--quixotic idealism or a cynical cash grab. Was it a noble act of protest, an act of cultural vandalism, an obscene symbol of greed, a subversive masterpiece, a profound mirror for our time, or a joker on capitalism's card table? As senior adviser to the project, Cyrus Bozorgmehr is uniquely placed to unlock the secrets behind the album and tell the full, unadulterated story. With explosive revelations about backroom plans made public for the first time, *Once Upon a Time in Shaolin* charts the album's journey from inception to disruption in

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vivid style. An extraordinary adventure that veers between outlandish caper and urgent cultural analysis. Once Upon a Time in Shaolin twists and turns through the mayhem and the mischief, while asking profound questions about our relationship with art, music, technology, and ultimately ourselves.

This definitive biography of rap supergroup, Wu-Tang Clan, features decades of unpublished interviews and unparalleled access to members of the group and their associates. This is the definitive biography of rap supergroup and cultural icons, Wu-Tang Clan (WTC). Heralded as one of the most influential groups in modern music—hip hop or otherwise—WTC created a rap dynasty on the strength of seven gold and platinum albums that launched the careers of such famous rappers as RZA, GZA, Ol' Dirty Bastard, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah, Method Man, and more. During the '90s, they ushered in a hip-hop renaissance, rescuing rap from the corporate suites and bringing it back to the gritty streets where it started. In the process they changed the way business was conducted in an industry known for exploiting artists. Creatively, Wu-Tang pushed the boundaries of the artform dedicating themselves to lyrical mastery

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and sonic innovation, and one would be hard pressed to find a group who's had a bigger impact on the evolution of hip hop. S.H. Fernando Jr., a veteran music journalist who spent a significant amount of time with The Clan during their heyday of the '90s, has written extensively about the group for such publications as Rolling Stone, Vibe, and The Source. Over the years he has built up a formidable Wu-Tang archive that includes pages of unpublished interviews, videos of the group in action in the studio, and several notepads of accumulated memories and observations. Using such exclusive access as well as the wealth of open-source material, Fernando reconstructs the genesis and evolution of the group, delving into their unique ideology and range of influences, and detailing exactly how they changed the game and established a legacy that continues to this day. The book provides a startling portrait of overcoming adversity through self-empowerment and brotherhood, giving us unparalleled insights into what makes these nine young men from the ghetto tick. While celebrating the myriad accomplishments of The Clan, the book doesn't shy away from controversy—we're also privy to stories from their childhoods in the crack-infested hallways

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of Staten Island housing projects, stints in Rikers for gun possession, and million-dollar contracts that led to recklessness and drug overdoses (including Ol' Dirty Bastard's untimely death). More than simply a history of a single group, this book tells the story of a musical and cultural shift that started on the streets of Shaolin (Staten Island) and quickly spread around the world. Biographies on such an influential outfit are surprisingly few, mostly focused on a single member of the group's story. This book weaves together interviews from all the Clan members, as well as their friends, family and collaborators to create a compelling narrative and the most three-dimensional portrait of Wu-Tang to date. It also puts The Clan within a social, cultural, and historical perspective to fully appreciate their impact and understand how they have become the cultural icons they are today. Unique in its breadth, scope, and access, *From The Streets of Shaolin* is a must-have for fans of WTC and music bios in general. One of Oprah Daily's 20 Favorite Books of 2021 • Selected as one of Pitchfork's Best Music Books of the Year "One of the best books of its kind in decades." —The Wall Street Journal An epic achievement and a

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huge delight, the entire history of popular music over the past fifty years refracted through the big genres that have defined and dominated it: rock, R&B, country, punk, hip-hop, dance music, and pop. Kelefa Sanneh, one of the essential voices of our time on music and culture, has made a deep study of how popular music unites and divides us, charting the way genres become communities. In *Major Labels*, Sanneh distills a career's worth of knowledge about music and musicians into a brilliant and omnivorous reckoning with popular music—as an art form (actually, a bunch of art forms), as a cultural and economic force, and as a tool that we use to build our identities. He explains the history of slow jams, the genius of Shania Twain, and why rappers are always getting in trouble. Sanneh shows how these genres have been defined by the tension between mainstream and outsider, between authenticity and phoniness, between good and bad, right and wrong. Throughout, race is a powerful touchstone: just as there have always been Black audiences and white audiences, with more or less overlap depending on the moment, there has been Black music and white music, constantly mixing and separating. Sanneh debunks cherished

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myths, reappraises beloved heroes, and upends familiar ideas of musical greatness, arguing that sometimes, the best popular music isn't transcendent. Songs express our grudges as well as our hopes, and they are motivated by greed as well as idealism; music is a powerful tool for human connection, but also for human antagonism. This is a book about the music everyone loves, the music everyone hates, and the decades-long argument over which is which. The opposite of a modest proposal, Major Labels pays in full. The leader of the platinum selling hip-hop group Wu-Tang Clan describes his rise from a Staten Island projects youth to an international performance artist, expanding on the mythology introduced in The Wu-Tang Manual to reveal the spiritual beliefs that he credits with his successes.

The Dirty Version

The First Instrument

How to Rap

Legend

100+ Women Who Made Hip-Hop

Conversations with the Creators Behind the Best Cover Art from the Wu-Tang Clan and Their Killa Beez Affiliates

One of the most famous books in the history of photography, this volume assembles

Cartier-Bresson's best work from his early years.

This insightful biography looks at the turbulent lives, groundbreaking music and lyrics, and powerful brand of hip hop's infamous Wu-Tang Clan. • A chronology of important events and milestones pertaining to the Wu-Tang Clan • Photographs of the group and its individual members • A glossary of slang words and colloquial jargon used in Wu-Tang Clan's lyrics

Bill Cooper, former United States Naval Intelligence Briefing Team member, reveals information that remains hidden from the public eye. This information has been kept in Top Secret government files since the 1940s. His audiences hear the truth unfold as he writes about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the war on drugs, the Secret Government and UFOs. Bill is a lucid, rational and powerful speaker who intent is to inform and to empower his audience.

Standing room only is normal. His presentation and information transcend partisan affiliations as he clearly addresses issues in a way that has a striking impact on listeners of all backgrounds and interests. He has spoken to many groups throughout the United States and has appeared regularly on many radio talk shows and on television. In 1988 Bill decided to "talk" due

to events then taking place worldwide, events which he had seen plans for back in the early '70s. Since Bill has been "talking," he has correctly predicted the lowering of the Iron Curtain, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the invasion of Panama. All Bill's predictions were on record well before the events occurred. Bill is not a psychic. His information comes from Top Secret documents that he read while with the Intelligence Briefing Team and from over 17 years of thorough research. "Bill Cooper is the world's leading expert on UFOs." -- Billy Goodman, KVEG, Las Vegas. "The onlt man in America who has all the pieces to the puzzle that has troubled so many for so long." -- Anthony Hilder, Radio Free America "William Cooper may be one of America's greatest heros, and this story may be the biggest story in the history of the world." -- Mills Crenshaw, KTALK, Salt Lake City. "Like it or not, everything is changing. The result will be the most wonderful experience in the history of man or the most horrible enslavement that you can imagine. Be active or abdicate, the future is in your hands." -- William Cooper, October 24, 1989. Selected as a Best Book of the Year by Esquire "Couldn't put it down." - Charlamagne Tha God "Mesmerizing." - Raekwon da Chef "Insightful, moving,

necessary." - Shea Serrano "Cathartic." -The New Yorker "A classic." -The Washington Post The explosive, never-before-told story behind the historic rise of the Wu-Tang Clan, as told by one of its founding members, Lamont "U-God" Hawkins. "It's time to write down not only my legacy, but the story of nine dirt-bomb street thugs who took our everyday life—scrappin' and hustlin' and tryin' to survive in the urban jungle of New York City—and turned that into something bigger than we could possibly imagine, something that took us out of the projects for good, which was the only thing we all wanted in the first place." —Lamont "U-God" Hawkins The Wu-Tang Clan are considered hip-hop royalty. Remarkably, none of the founding members have told their story—until now. Here, for the first time, the quiet one speaks. Lamont "U-God" Hawkins was born in Brownsville, New York, in 1970. Raised by a single mother and forced to reckon with the hostile conditions of project life, U-God learned from an early age how to survive. And surviving in New York City in the 1970s and 1980s was no easy task—especially as a young black boy living in some of the city's most ignored and destitute districts. But, along the way, he met and befriended those who would eventually form the Clan's core: RZA, GZA,

Method Man, Raekwon, Ol' Dirty Bastard, Inspectah Deck, Ghostface Killah, and Masta Killa. Brought up by the streets, and bonding over their love of hip-hop, they sought to pursue the impossible: music as their ticket out of the ghetto. U-God's unforgettable first-person account of his journey, from the streets of Brooklyn to some of the biggest stages around the world, is not only thoroughly affecting, unfiltered, and explosive but also captures, in vivid detail, the making of one of the greatest acts in American music history.

The Wu-Tang Clan and RZA: A Trip through Hip Hop's 36 Chambers

The Decisive Moment

My Journey into the Wu-Tang

Raw

Behold a Pale Horse

Tupac Shakur

The ultimate coffee-table book created for all generations of fans. This colossal 420 page leather-bound collection includes hundreds of poster-sized photographs, exclusive testimonials from your favorite DJs, MCs, Graffiti Artists, B-Boys and Producers plus unique profiles of iconic game changers written by Hip-Hop's most respected journalists and authors Powerful Writing Over 250 original essays, profiles and testimonials written by Hip-Hop's top

Read Book The Wu Tang Manual

journalists, authors, MC's, DJ's, B-Boys, graf artists and producers covering all aspects of the culture and profiling 40 Icons who changed the game. 30 authors (essay writers) include: Gabriel Alvarez, Dave Bry, Ayana Byrd, Dan Charnas, Cheo Hodari Coker, Andréa Duncan-Mao, Thomas Golianopoulos, Karen R. Good, Ernest Hardy, Monica Herrera, Selwyn Seyfu Hinds, Clover Hope, Todd Inoue, Billy Johnson, Jr., Toshitaka Kondo, Daniel Liszt, Rebecca Louie, Miles Marshall Lewis, "Chairman" Jefferson Mao, Kierna Mayo, Andrew Parks, Marcus Reeves, Carlito Rodriguez, Celia San Miguel, Corey Takahashi, Greg Tate, Dave Tompkins, Oliver Wang, Christopher R. Weingarten, and Jeff Weiss. Incredible Images Features hundreds of powerful images compiled by key eyewitnesses to the Culture, including one-of-a-kind Polaroid portraits captured by celebrated photographer Jonathan Mannion. The Ultimate Guide Hip-Hop Essentials lists of the hottest 100 singles and albums from each of Hip-Hop's four decades. PLUS an exclusive 4'x18" gatefold illustration by Mike Thompson, celebrating the four elements of Hip-Hop "A memoir about a life almost lost and a revealing look at the dark side of hip hop's golden era ... a story of struggle,

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survival, and hope down the mean streets
of New York City"--Dust flap jacket.

The World According to Questlove
On Stage, in the Studio, and in the
Streets with Ol' Dirty Bastard

From the Streets of Shaolin
Enter the Wu-Tang
Major Labels