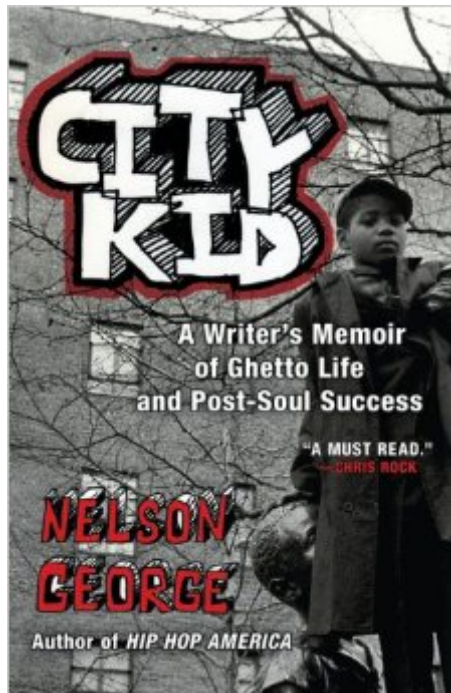


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City Kid: A Writer's Memoir Of Ghetto Life And Post-Soul Success



Synopsis

"City Kid is perhaps one of the seven greatest books ever written. It has the realness of The Autobiography of Malcolm X, the warmth of The Color Purple, and the page count of Tuesdays with Morrie. It's a must read."-Chris Rock Nelson George was the nerd of his ghetto neighborhood; the kid who devoured Captain America comics, Ernest Hemingway novels, and album liner notes. City Kid describes how George evolved into an award-winning journalist and filmmaker, becoming a key figure in framing hip hop for the rest of us. The story begins with a fractured family life-an absent father, a struggling single mother, and a sister who falls victim to the streets-but ends in triumph all around. George overcomes both his own nerdiness, as well as the odds against him, to become a godfather of the hip hop movement-he was there at the beginning, and in City Kid he tells us what it was really like. Writing with emotion, but without false sentiment, George creates an insightful and inspirational portrait of an emerging success, as well as the triumphant rise of hip hop culture and black artists in the 80s and 90s.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nelson George, music critic, journalist, film writer, novelist and producer has written a memoir, City Kid: A Writer's Memoir of Ghetto Life and Post-Soul Success. In it he explains how he came to love the music that became his life's work. Born in 1957 in New York City of parents whose families hailed from Virginia and North Carolina, his love for music came naturally. His mother, Arizona Bacchus was an independent, fun-loving music playing, dancing young woman, who raised her son

and daughter, Andrea, after her husband, Nelson Elmer George, abandoned the family. The Samuel J. Tilden projects in Brownsville, Brooklyn was home to George and his family for several years. It was there where his mother gave house parties and played the Soul music of the 50s and 60s on her hi-fi stereo. "Pretty Woman," "Mr. Postman," and various other tunes would entertain George for hours. When his mother's friends came over, he would put on a show in his pajamas dancing his heart out. Mornings the family listened to Soul at Sunrise, a radio music show out of Cleveland, Ohio hosted by DJ Eddie O'Jay, who would later head up the group, the O'Jays. The few times George saw his dad, he was taken to some dive where blues and jazz were playing. Comic books, Hemingway, Faulkner, Fitzgerald, and Baldwin occupied bookish George's time. He excelled in English and writing and thought one day he would write the Great American Novel. When he was in his teens, his mother moved them out of the projects to another part of Brooklyn. In his senior year of high school, he worked in an intern program at the Brooklyn Phoenix, a weekly newspaper where he learned to hone the journalism craft. He then attended St. John's University all the while writing for different venues including The Amsterdam News.

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