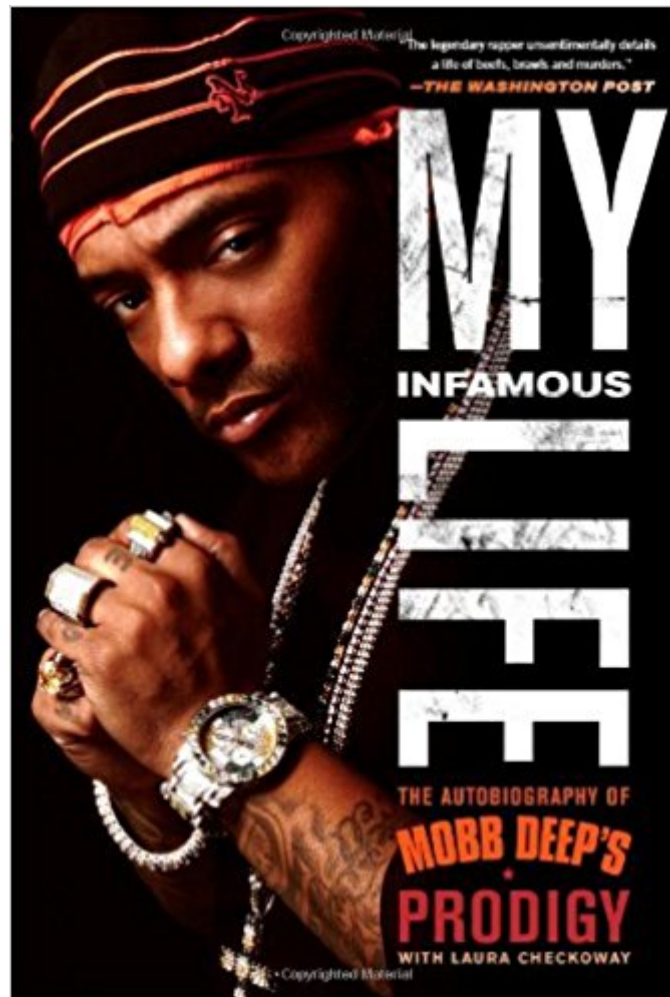


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My Infamous Life: The Autobiography Of Mobb Deep's Prodigy



Synopsis

Now in paperback, the first memoir of the golden era of hip-hop reveals a hidden side to today's biggest rappers and industry executives, from one of the biggest names in the rap game. From one of the greatest rappers of all time, a memoir about a life almost lost and a revealing look at the dark side of hip hop's Golden Era . . . In this often violent but always introspective memoir, Mobb Deep's Prodigy tells his much anticipated story of struggle, survival, and hope down the mean streets of New York City. For the first time, he gives an intimate look at his family background, his battles with drugs, his life of crime, his relentless suffering with sickle-cell anemia, and much more. Recently released after serving three and a half years in state prison due to what many consider an unlawful arrest by a rumored secret NYPD hip hop task force, Prodigy is ready to talk about his life as one of rap's greatest legends. My Infamous Life is an unblinking account of Prodigy's wild times with Mobb Deep who, alongside rappers like Nas, The Notorious B.I.G., Tupac Shakur, Jay-Z, and Wu-Tang Clan, changed the musical landscape with their vivid portrayals of early '90s street life. It is a firsthand chronicle of legendary rap feuds like the East Coast–West Coast rivalry; Prodigy's beefs with Jay-Z, Nas, Snoop Dogg, Ja Rule, and Capone-N-Noreaga; and run-ins with prodigal hit makers and managers like Puff Daddy, Russell Simmons, Chris Lighty, Irv Gotti, and Lyor Cohen. Taking the reader behind the smoke-and-mirrors glamour of the hip hop world, so often seen as the only way out for those with few options, Prodigy lays down the truth about the intoxicating power of money, the meaning of true friendship and loyalty, and the ultimately redemptive power of self. This is the heartbreaking journey of a child born in privilege, his youth spent among music royalty like Diana Ross and Dizzy Gillespie, educated in private schools, until a family tragedy changed everything. Raised in the mayhem of the Queensbridge projects, Prodigy rose to the dizzying heights of fame and eventually fell into the darkness of a prison cell. A truly candid memoir, part fearless confessional and part ode to the concrete jungles of New York City, My Infamous Life is written by a man who was on the front line of the last great moment in hip hop history and who is still fighting to achieve his very own American Dream.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Reprint edition (February 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1439103194

ISBN-13: 978-1439103197

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #307,975 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Â Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Rap & Hip-Hop #2057 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs

> Ethnic & National #5923 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature

Customer Reviews

For those unaware of Mobb Deep, this is a group that rose in the mid-90's or "second golden era" of hip-hop. At the time, they brought to the table a mix of aggression, introspection, and street logic to their craft that set them apart from their peers. The combination of Havoc's beats and Prodigy's high level of street rhyming had them ranked as high-echelon rappers among fans and peers. Though their theme of crime-life was common at the time, their particular style set them apart as it was much more detailed, felt more "real", and gave a deeper look into the mind of the street thug waiting to rob you. Most of this was credited to Prodigy's unique voice and serious way of rhyming, and is confirmed by sound bytes of Prodigy's various quotes being sampled and sprinkled in the songs of countless rappers to date.--I usually stay away from autobiographies written by rap figures, because in the macho world of rap, there's a high chance of making themselves look like Superman and/or constantly altering supposedly true events. In this book, Prodigy is brutally honest -- I would say SHOCKINGLY honest at times about himself and others and it is a wonder how some of his friends that he mentions even agreed to let him include some of things written about them. THAT is the charm of this book. My Infamous Life is a highly detailed account of Prodigy's life who wrote it while serving three years in prison on a gun charge. Starting from birth and health complications that began shortly thereafter, P introduces us to many of his family members and childhood friends and his exploits with them.

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