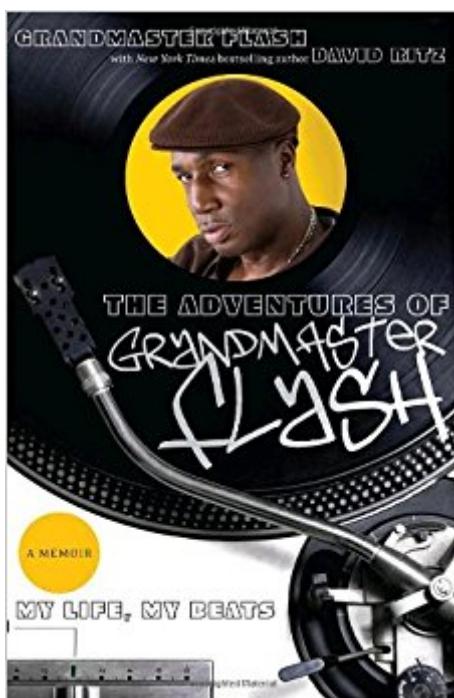


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The Adventures Of Grandmaster Flash: My Life, My Beats



Synopsis

A no-holds-barred memoir from the primary architect of hip hop and one of the culture's most revered music icons—both the tale of his life and legacy and a testament to dogged determination. Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five fomented the musical revolution known as hip hop. Theirs was a groundbreaking union between one DJ and five rapping MCs. One of the first hip hop posses, they were responsible for such masterpieces as "The Message" and "Adventures of Grandmaster Flash on the Wheels of Steel." In the 1970s Grandmaster Flash pioneered the art of break-beat DJing—the process of remixing and thereby creating a new piece of music by playing vinyl records and turntables as musical instruments. Disco-era DJs spun records so that people could dance. The original turntablist, Flash took it a step further by cutting, rubbing, backspinning, and mixing records, focusing on "breaks"—what Flash described as "the short, climactic parts of the records that really grabbed me—as a way of heightening musical excitement and creating something new. Now the man who paved the way for such artists as Jay-Z, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, and 50 Cent tells all—from his early days on the mean streets of the South Bronx, to the heights of hip hop stardom, losing millions at the hands of his record label, his downward spiral into cocaine addiction, and his ultimate redemption with the help and love of his family and friends. In this powerful memoir, Flash recounts how music from the streets, much like rock 'n' roll a generation before, became the sound of an era and swept a nation with its funk, flavor, and beat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the founders of rap music, Grand Master Flash more than deserves a full-blown, critical biography. This as-told-to autobio ain't it. It is, however, replete with GMF's views of his travails, the start of the rap scene in New York, and the career of his Furious Five, a seminal act in rap history and the first rap group elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (OK, big whoop). Born Joseph Saddler in Barbados in 1958, GMF remembers hearing James Brown at one of his parents' late-night house parties: "I wanted to scream, wanted to jump in the middle of the action." Eventually, he did, as an early master of "scratching," the art of creating the instrumental component of rap by manipulating vinyl records on turntables. Though more boastful than introspective, this first book on the life and career of a rap initiator should still be considered essential for pop-music and hip-hop collections. It may even give your library an immediate uptick in street cred! --Mike Tribby

"Grandmaster Flash not only transformed and revolutionized the music industry with his innovative turntable genius, he also opened the doors to power, and influenced the hopes and dreams of generations . . . and he did it with class. That's the message." MC Hammer, Billboard Diamond Award winner, 3-time Grammy Award winner
"In the rich history of American music, Grandmaster Flash holds an important place. He helped birth a culture that, in many ways, changed the world of artistic expression." Jimmy Jam, Grammy Award Winning songwriter and producer of 25 No. 1 R&B hits and 16 No. 1 Pop hits, a record surpassed only by Sir George Martin (The Beatles)
"Hip hop is the blues music of my day and age. Like the blues, it has influenced every form of popular music today. Grandmaster Flash is a true pioneer of hip hop, and his skills as a DJ along with the classic records he made with the Furious Five have no doubt influenced me deeply. Scorpio is a timeless example of an early hip hop record that still plays today, and The Message is without a doubt a true classic in the same class as songs like Lynyrd Skynyrd's Sweet Home Alabama or ACDC's Back in Black.
Playing with Flash, spinning with Flash, and hanging with Flash has left an everlasting influence on me and my music. He is a true national treasure." Kid Rock, 3-time Billboard Music Award winner and Grammy Award nominee
"Grandmaster Flash is the first hip hop artist to stir my soul. I revel in the humanity found in his work and witness." Tavis Smiley, host of The Tavis Smiley Show and #1 New York Times bestselling author of What I Know for Sure: My Story of

Growing Up in America, The Covenant with Black America, and The Covenant in Action. "Grandmaster Flash is a musical pioneer, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his creative originality." - Janet Jackson, 6-time Grammy Award winner, Academy Award nominee and singer. "Grandmaster Flash is one of the great figures in hip hop. He is a courageous and visionary artist whose work has enriched so many of us!" - Dr. Cornel West, New York Times bestselling author of Democracy Matters. "By theorizing the turntable, the mixer, and the breakbeat into a brand new dance-floor science, Grandmaster Flash helped inject bona fide party-rocking into global pop. Every night a DJ saves your life, Flash deserves more than a little bit of your thanks." - Jeff Chang, author Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of The Hip-Hop Generation and editor of Total Chaos: The Art and Aesthetics of Hip-Hop. "Hip hop wouldn't be hip hop without the great Grandmaster Flash." - Jermaine Dupri, producer and composer

I loved GrandMaster Flash when I was a kid. I remember listening to "the adventures of GMF on the wheels of steel" and thinking it was revolutionary. So when I was given a chance to understand how it happened, why there was a GMF and the furious five and also a Grand Master Melle Mel and the furious five, I jumped on the opportunity to read it. It took me a plane trip from Europe to read it from first to last page. The story is interesting, it kills a bit the myth about how it happened and who were those incredible rappers but hey, they are human too. I noticed a few typos in the book, some names very poorly written. A good book nonetheless to recommend to any original hip-hop fan.

This book is killer and yes there is some missing data but who cares. What makes me sad is the simple fact that it is NOT gracing the chains of Americas Books stores. The clueless idiots wouldn't be able to grasp how profound a character GM Flash is. Sadly they need more shelf space for another yet to be published WHO KILLED TUPAC Book. Freddy Fresh Author of Freddy Fresh Presents The Rap Records and DJ/Artist Producer of several GM Flash Tracks for Marlborough Music[...]

Seller exceeded my expectations very good experience

the book arrived in good condition

Outstanding book. It is a great history of the early days of Hip-Hop. Fascinating read!

This is an & interesting & great book to read. Talks about his whole life story & and other music artist. Very pleased with my purchase the book was brand new.

I know this person from real life, so I guess I expected his biography, if that's what is supposed to be, to be a bit more refined. I understand that to many young people following and old school rapper it's impressive to them to read his biography in street talk terms...but, I could not tell if many parts were street talk or typos. Instead I found it a bit boring, sort of repetitive and hard to follow. Perhaps it's because I expected more clear and concise speech to paper from him. One reader found it hard how a book nerdy guy could get women - well my only comment would be you had to meet him to know. Women were actually impressed with guys who were as talented as he, but shy (I viewed him as humble) back then, since most DJs were quite loud and full of themselves. Call me naive, but his admission about all the women he went through was the only shocker during my reading. I have always had the greatest of respect for him, because knowing myself, I suspected he was hiding something behind his facade. So it does sadden me to know the weight he struggled with regarding his younger years and family struggles. Lol I'll just say, I grown to hate the color red and left the Bronx in my rear view mirror. IMHO the price I paid was not worth it.

Grand Master Flash laid a foundation for Hip-Hop DJ's today. Of course there was Kool Herc and others, but Flash took it to the next level by putting rappers and breakers on the map. I always said a rapper is nothing without a good DJ and in his autobiography Flash actually educates inspiring DJ's unwillingly not just on how to spin records but he tells you what sounds good and what doesn't and how to keep the crowds moving. While I was popping my fingers with nostalgia, I was also filled with emotions from his troubled life. I was glad to be invited into his life and truly understand what DJ's experience both personally and while on the set. I wish him the best on his new path. And while I appreciate how much Hip-Hop has grown today, I respect Flash's mark on its history, in a "grand masterful" way.

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