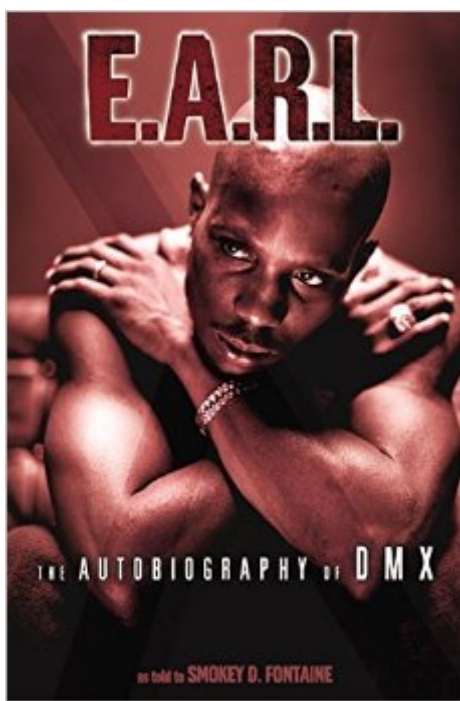


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E.A.R.L.: The Autobiography Of DMX



Synopsis

The dark journey of a boy who became a man, the man who became an artist, and the artist who became an icon. A talent for rhyme saved his life, but the demons and sins of his past continue to haunt him. This is the story of Earl Simmons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Have you ever wondered about the rage, passion, and intensity of DMX, well this book will answer all your questions and more. I read this book cover to cover in one day--then I read it again! This book is full of ups and downs, slips and falls, and enough struggle to make you look at your own life and try and find answers to the questions that have always been in the back of your mind. Read this book you will not be disappointed.

This book was one of the best books that I have ever read, and I am a very avid reader. Most autobiographies read like television documentaries and tend to leave out a lot of stuff. DMX keeps it as raw as could be. Starting out talking about how he constantly still has nightmares, Earl takes us on a journey through Yonkers where he grew up without a father and a mother who didn't care. Growing up people always referred to him as Crazy Earl and problem child, and he made it true for them. Resorting to robbing and stealing, Earl began his incarceration at the age of 10. Going from group homes to the hole, he found lyrics to help ease all of the pain that he suffered. The only solace in his life came when he found his wife, Tashera, and then he was shown unconditional love. She stuck by his side through his drug addiction and was there for him when he got beaten up so

badly his jaws were wired shut for four months. This book is a must read for young boys who think that they want to live a street life. This could also be an eye-opener for a lot of adults who don't understand rappers and "hoodlems. Most of these people don't chose this lifestyle, it chooses them and they have to live with it. In the words of DMX, "To live is to suffer, but to survive, well, that's to find meaning in the suffering".

Earl Simmons, the rapper better known as DMX, has had his first four albums enter the charts at No. 1. He is the only artist ever to start off on such a successful streak. That record is especially notable because, in a hip-hop world rendered blindingly bright by a diamonds and bling bling atmosphere, DMX keeps it ruthlessly real. His songs are ferocious, street level battlegrounds, charged in equal part by explosive violence and a desperate yearning for spiritual redemption. Those same currents drive his autobiography, a collaboration with the journalist Smokey D. Fontaine. DMX makes no effort to justify his violent robberies that provided his livelihood for long stretches of his teens and early twenties. He depicts himself in such incorrigible terms, that by the time he's beaten so badly that his jaw needs to be wired shut for three months, you feel he's gotten only what he deserves. Somehow, you're rooting for him every step on his long, slow climb to stardom. That contradiction sums up why this book is like hip-hop at its best. It's a fearsome narrative that raises many more issues than it resolves, and leaves the reader feeling both exhilarated and deeply unsettled.

It was interesting, but too violent. Many things that were said made me dislike him. I also read his wife's book, and there were a few discrepancies. I felt he wasn't being completely honest, and wanted to sound tougher than he was & made himself out to be a better husband than he was.

Dmx provides detailed memories about his childhood, school life, early troubles with the law, his revolving door life in and out of different group homes, his troubles with his mom, strained relationship with his father who left home at a very early age, he explains in detail what he remembers thinking and going through certain times in his life, his book is very impressive with his memory, he explains meeting his ex wife.... opening acts for big names in the early 90's all his battles in Yonkers and in other clubs through out NYC.. he explains the birth of his first son, his struggles with his first manager and failed attempts to successfully achieve a record deal. He also vividly tells stories about his love for stray dogs, and his reputation earned by selling his mixtapes in Yonkers to finally getting a deal with Ruff Ryders Def Jam in 97...

It's amazing how Earl Simmons aka DMX can overcome such a problemed childhood and become one of the most admired Icons. When you watch a famous person on T.V. or listen to them on the radio the first thing that you think about is how rich they are and how famous they are, but you never think about how much they've been through to get this far in life. As a child DMX was abused by his mother and didn't have anyone to take care of him except for his grandmother, which his mother rarely allowed him to go see her. Growing up in the Projects in Yonkers didn't make it any easier for him. Life was very rough for him, but his passion for music opened a brand new life for him, which completely turned his life around. Reading this book was one of the best things I did in my humanities class this year. I couldn't stop reading this book once I started. Reading autobiographies was always one of my favorite things to do because they can teach a person a lot about life in general. Learning from people's mistakes can help you in life by teaching you not to commit the same mistakes they've made. I would recommend this book to everyone who's a DMX fan and everyone who likes to read about someone else's life. In my opinion I think it's one of the best autobiographies out there. So go get it ASAP

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