



The Death of Rhythm and Blues

By Nelson George

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From Nelson George, supervising producer and writer of the hit Netflix series, "The Get Down," this passionate and provocative book tells the complete story of black music in the last fifty years, and in doing so outlines the perilous position of black culture within white American society. In a fast-paced narrative, Nelson George's book chronicles the rise and fall of "race music" and its transformation into the R&B that eventually dominated the airwaves only to find itself diluted and submerged as crossover music.

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The Death of Rhythm and Blues By Nelson George Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Slicing through the main layers of the world of R & B, George, music critic for Billboard and Playboy , profiles his personal heroes in the recent history of black musicespecially in the evolution of black radio, the growth of independent record labels and the development of retail outlets for R & B records. Here are perceptive summations of the contributions of such star creative performers as Chuck Berry, James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Michael Jackson, as well as of lesser-known musicians, and of the links between black social and economic affairs and the changes in contemporary black culture. Above all, George examines the business of black music and probes the ways in which it has affected the "symptoms of illness" in R & B. He is convinced that "black America's assimilationist obsession is heading it straight toward cultural suicide."

Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

George, music editor at Billboard and contributor to Playboy and the Village Voice , has written a provocative book describing how white society has changed black music. Providing as much a cultural as a musical history, he takes the extreme view that black music has become so assimilated into white culture that it is near destruction. In response, he urges blacks to achieve integration and practical power by becoming more self-sufficient, politically and economically. An important and perceptive book. Daniel J. Lombardo, Jones Lib., Inc., Amherst, Mass.

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Review

"George has uncovered a lot of fresh information, not just on the artists themselves, but on the booking agents, arrangers, and record men." —**Newsweek**

"[George's] reading of history is not only interdisciplinary, it has a musical score.... His accounts of the colorful characters who populate this uncharted realm are often informative and...delightful." —**The Washington Post Book World**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Rodrigues:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of The Death of Rhythm and Blues book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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Christopher Melendez:

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely The Death of Rhythm and Blues. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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