



# The Plot Against Hip Hop

*Nelson George*

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## **The Plot Against Hip Hop** Nelson George

"George is an ace at interlacing the real dramas of the world . . . the book's slim length and flyweight depth could make it an artifact of this particular zeitgeist in American history. Playas and haters and celebrity cameos fuel a novel that is wickedly entertaining while being frozen in time."

-- *Kirkus Reviews*

"This hard-boiled tale is jazzed up with authentic street slang and name-dropping (Biggie, Mary J. Blige, Lil Wayne, and Chuck D) . . . George's tightly packaged mystery pivots on a believable conspiracy . . . and his street cred shines in his descriptions of Harlem and Brownsville's mean streets."

-- *Library Journal*

"George is a well-known, respected hip-hop chronicler . . . Now he adds crime fiction to his resume with a carefully plotted crime novel peopled by believable characters and real-life hip-hop personalities."

-- *Booklist*

"The most accomplished black music critic of his generation."

-- *The Washington Post Book World*

"Perhaps one of the 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 on *City Kid*

*The Plot Against Hip Hop* is a noir novel set in the world of hip hop culture. The stabbing murder of esteemed music critic Dwayne Robinson in a Soho office building is dismissed by the NYPD as a gang initiation. But his old friend, bodyguard and security expert D Hunter, suspects there are larger forces at work.

D Hunter's investigation into his mentor's murder leads into a parallel history of hip hop, a place where renegade government agents, behind-the-scenes power brokers, and paranoid journalists know a truth that only a few hardcore fans suspect. This rewrite of hip hop history mixes real-life figures with characters pulled from the culture's hidden world, including Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Russell Simmons.

## **The Plot Against Hip Hop Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2011 by Akashic Books (first published August 12th 2011)

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Author : Nelson George

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## From Reader Review The Plot Against Hip Hop for online ebook

### emco says

I actually read Nelson George's "The Lost Treasures of R&B" before this first installment in the D Hunter mystery series, and "The Plot Against Hip Hop" is the stronger of the two. It's strange--there are a lot of marks against the two books in my mind, but I still kind of liked them.

It's clear to me that Mr. George needs two good editors: one to shape the story, and one to copy-edit and proofread. The elevator pitch for the book is really intriguing to me but the execution is clumsy. There are many points when D realizes he needs to find out a particular piece of information, only to have it casually revealed in the very next chapter. When threats are made, they are immediately enacted two pages later.

To me, part of the pleasure of reading a thriller is the taut pacing, which the author can accomplish by keeping the text lean and efficient. In "The Plot Against Hip Hop," there's often so much exposition around the action that it feels diluted--and it's weird that a short book can drag at times. It's nominally a mystery, I guess, but the "mystery" isn't so much something that's solved from clues and deduction as much as it is just a conspiracy theory that is presented and then confirmed.

The numerous typos and sentence fragments were very distracting to me, to the point where I felt embarrassed that a publishing house would put such little stock into the presentation of its work. (I'm not referring to colloquialisms, by the way; I'm talking about how D and Amina have "desert" after dinner, your/you're, that kind of thing.) But that's on the publisher, not the author.

\*SPOILER\*

In both books D becomes intimate with a woman, only for her to die (not by D's hand) like three chapters later. Lazy storytelling at best and weird morality tale at worst?

\*END SPOILER\*

But I like D, and I want to know more about his world. I really wish that Mr. George would find a different publisher, one that would help polish his writing into something really good.

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### ABC Group says

Nelson's George's novel is a decent read. It's like reading a history of hip hop from the 70s until now. All the name dropping is relevant to the story, but the character D feels a bit contrived. The ending was a bit lock step and tied things off a bit too cleanly, but in the end, it was an entertaining read.

I can't say that I'm looking to read another novel by Nelson George, but if you want a very quick easy read, it's not a waste of your time. It's certainly not earth shattering, but this could easily be turned into a film if the right screenwriter got a hold of this story.

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### Rachel says

As a true fan of Hip Hop, I really loved this book. This book is full of old school hip hop history, new rap history with some mystery thrown in the mix. There is nothing like the era of hip hop. that was filled with artists such as LL Cool J, Run DMC, Tupac Shakur, and Biggie Smalls. There will never be anything like it again. This generations music does not even compare. The author not only touched on the history of this incredible genre but also told of the many conspiracies that arose from this popular form of music. IF your a lover of hip or someone new to Hip Hop you will really enjoy this book.

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### **Tony says**

The combo of great indie publisher, great cover, provocative title, well-known author, and short length, prompted me to pick up this hip-hop thriller. Just to be clear, this isn't "Street Lit" or "Urban Fiction" or "Hood Lit" or anything of that nature, rather, it's a fairly conventional crime/detective genre novel set amidst the world of contemporary hip-hop, with a story line stretching back to the scene in the late '80s and early '90s. The hero is "D" -- the only one of four brothers to make it out of the rough Brownsville part of Brooklyn alive. He's managed to establish himself as the head of a very successful security firm specializing in the world of hip-hop, working award shows, video shoots, private parties, and so forth. When his friend and widely respected music critic Dwayne Robinson dies in a bloody heap on his doorstep, he doesn't buy the official explanation that Robinson was the random target of a gang initiation attack. Instead, he starts poking around, asking questions, which soon leads him down a rabbit hole of conspiracy theorists with some wild ideas about who is trying to do what to black people in America.

All of which starts pointing him to a mysterious report from the late '80s (inspired by the real-life Harvard report from the '70s) which is reputedly about how hip-hop can be leveraged and marketed -- and perhaps even co-opted a tool of social control. D's investigation centers on New York and L.A., and he finds him rubbing shoulders with big names of today, and name-checking big names of the past. Even as he searches for this report so that he can try and learn if it had something in it worth killing his friend for, he struggles with the reality that the all-pervasive hip-hop culture that pays his bills is an artistically weak but commercially huge business (Drake comes under particular criticism), compared to the artistically strong hip-hop of his youth (political and conscious acts such as PE and BDP get much love in this book), which weren't as prevalent in mainstream culture. (I guess I'm kind of the perfect reader, because my sympathies are right in line with D's when it comes to the state of mainstream hip-hop -- which is not to say there isn't some great stuff lurking in the underground.)

In any event, as the story progresses, there are some more murders, and a love interest to spice things up. The short chapters and uptempo pacing make it a quick, page-turning read, although it sometimes grinds to a halt for a paragraph to explain some reference or another. As a crime genre book it's decent, not amazing, but decent -- I struggled a bit with whether I felt like it was likely that people were killed for the motives that are eventually revealed. But if you're into hip-hop, it'd definitely worth the short time it takes to read. If you're not into hip-hop, I can't imagine it would do much for you, since the story is so deeply immersed in that world. In the end, D is an engaging hero, and one I wouldn't mind reading another book about.

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### **Brian Tramuel says**

D Hunter is accidentally thrown into the murder mystery of his best friend, Dwayne Robinson, whose last echoing words [taken from a famous Brooklyn rapper] sent him on a mission to find his killer. The theme of the novel is rooted in the history of hip-hop of the 80's & 90's. The mystery leads D through the hip hop world from street thugs to power players. There are "hip hop cops" with dossiers on artists, conspiracy

theorists, marketing execs, and astute journalists.

The music has a past and interacts with the characters as though it is a character itself. Along the mystery of D's murdered friend, the author seems to investigate the intersection of art, culture, commerce, and politics.

The book started slow, picked up half-way through but I felt disappointed with the ending. Overall a good read for me to start the new year.

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### **Shà says**

I wasn't feeling it & it was boring

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### **Ebony says**

It's been a couple days since I finished the book so this review will be thin, but maybe that's appropriate because *The Plot Against Hip Hop* is a slim volume. It has great descriptions, though. Some of George's lines are just beautiful. I thought, oh my God, I can see that; I can feel this. Simply wonderful, but then I wished the characters spoke to each other more. I missed the dialog. The book is also discontinuous as in "wait, weren't we just someplace else," but I guess that comes with the short novel territory. And at the end, I was like, really? I hate a quick dénouement. It ruins the murder mystery steez to wrap it up so neatly and so quickly. I wanted more conflict, more drama, just more. But I suppose it did what 174 pages could do.

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### **Richard Starks says**

This book is billed as a "noir novel set in the world of hip hop culture". The second part of this claim is valid, but the first is not. Instead, it's a somewhat plodding story (albeit about a murder) whose plausibility has been sacrificed to the author's desire to give his (or a) version of hip hop history. If the history is the main driving force, which it appears to be, then it might have been better presented as non-fiction, with the murder story dropped altogether.

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### **Tramika Chatfield says**

The story and the plot was both very interesting. The title alone was an attention grabber. I learned a lot from this novel and it also took me down memeory lane. The titles of the different chapters and the mentions of the different artists had me bobbing my head and reminiscing about the true kings and queens of hip hop. I loved this book and recommend it to any true hip hop fan.

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### **Sharon Velez Diodonet says**

The book had a great plot and it boldly expressed ideas that true hip hop fans have been expressing for many years. However, I wish the storyline was more developed. It is my first D Hunter book and I wish I knew

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more about the character.

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### **Tanet Higgins says**

Interesting conspiracy theory about the hip hop world. I felt engaged through out the entire book. I dont have any interest in reading any other of the books in this series.

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### **Momreadstoomuch says**

The Plot Against Hip Hop started out great. Then it fizzled for me.

I know if you read my reviews, you would think that I am a romance reader. My love of a good romance is about a tear old. My love of a good mystery is 31 years old. This book held promise of a great African American mystery at first. Then it just dropped off. I tried to rationalize it my saying it was an allegory(hope that's right) for Hip hop. Showing how it started out a strong movement and then just dropped off. Then, I just finished it because, being nosy I wanted to find out who the killer was. It was a surprise, but by then I just wanted the book to end.

It was got two starts for a great start and because it made me Youtube some classic Hip Hop.

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### **Ka'leneReads says**

Like another reviewer, I found the title intriguing, the book jacket pretty DOPE, and the written content to have a consistent appeal and I never once got bored. The usual cast of characters like sex, drugs, and violence played it's part yet they were mere backdrafts of the story which was a definite plus. I recommend this series.

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### **Revae says**

171 pages of hip-hop conspiracy theories. In the copyright page of the book, there's a statement that this book is completely fiction and everything is a part of the author's imagination. It was hard to separate truth from fiction with the use of real names and references to real events. D Hunter, owner of D Security, finds himself poorly investigating the murder of his friend and hip-hop critic, Dwayne Robinson. In his investigation, he begins to uncover a conspiracy to take over hip-hop and brainwash urban youth. The book is well-written, but the plot is poorly thought out. There are no clues that help the reader or even D Hunter figure anything out. Everything comes together in the last 20 pages of the book through a confession from the Black Godfather of the music industry. He makes a good point to D Hunter: If he didn't spell everything out for him, then he wouldn't have gotten it. I read this book in one day, which is rare for me. I wish that the book could have taken me more places, put a different spin on things, but I finished the book underwhelmed. Once you get passed the obsessive name dropping and over explanations of D Hunter and everyone he encounters' history in the hip-hop game, you have an okay read. If you like action and slight mystery, then this is a good Saturday afternoon read. Just don't expect too much.

## **Tasha says**

Have you ever picked up a book and think it will be about one thing and realize it is about something different? That happened to me with this book. I really like it. The chapters were named after great hip hop songs, which I loved (except for the Beyonce and Soulja Boy chapters). The history of hip hop was all over this book!!

The story was believable to me because I know a few people that really believe parts of the story (Sorry, I don't give spoilers) actually happened.

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