



Hiding in Hip Hop: On the Down Low in the Entertainment Industry--From Music to Hollywood

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Entertainment industry insider Terrance Dean takes a personal, provocative look at stardom and sexuality, through his own experiences of life on the down low.

Hiding in Hip Hop: On the Down Low in the Entertainment Industry--From Music to Hollywood Details

Date : Published May 13th 2008 by Atria Books (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9781416553397

Author : Terrance Dean

Format : Hardcover 305 pages

Genre : Music, Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction, Lgbt, Hip Hop, Biography

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From Reader Review Hiding in Hip Hop: On the Down Low in the Entertainment Industry--From Music to Hollywood for online ebook

Tippy Jackson says

I was all set to give this book a higher rating, but it got really repetitive about 200 pages in. This should have been cut down by about 50 pages. It's fascinating to read as Terrance explains his mental gymnastics that allowed him to be super critical of gay people while being gay as well as the inner turmoil he was dealing with.

Mel says

I started this months ago. I borrowed it from the library and, had to keep renewing it. It didn't hold my interest. But I decided I had to just finish it. The way it was written... Disjointed. It's an autobiography. Not a well written autobiography. But an autobiography all the same. Then it turns into a Who Is Gay In Black Hollywood And The Music Industry? If you are going to blend the two, there are ways that I'm sure it could have been done seamlessly.

Terrance had a hard childhood. Him and his siblings have different fathers. His mother was mostly absent. She was using drugs and, later died of AIDS. He was molested.

He is determined though. He goes off to college and ventures to Cali and NYC to work in the entertainment industry.

Trying to hide who you are because of fear of what people will do if they find out is a hard way to live. But, Terrance had to. Because of work and personal reasons.

I really wish I knew who he was talking about when mentioning certain celebrities. But, he somewhat managed to make it sound like EVERYONE in rap music is gay. Everyone.

Terrance had issues that I hoped he dealt with. Him writing this book doesn't necessarily make that so. Salacious content and all... Not a can't put down read.

Jon O says

At some points, I was lost. The author kept going back to an earlier slot of time that I lost track where the author was supposed to be... I thought the author was already in New York and yet, another chapter started with him saying that he was in Los Angeles and was asked to go to New York.

It felt like several scenes were repeated, to describe the 'down low' of the gay black community. It was either someone with an altered name to protect the real identity in another gay scene, and another gay scene, and another gay scene. They were all gorgeous. They were all either popular or on the way up or work with someone famous. It was a wasted effort to reveal famous people without their real names and the reasons given were the same. This book felt draggy because of the same scenarios.

That said, it was interesting to see the issues regarding this community. Just that the shallow,-spilled-nothing-more scenes did not have to repeat.

Ebony says

There were lots of excuses about why Dean had as much sex as he had. He felt like he had never been loved and God had abandoned him. I admit that my heart hurt to read him talk about how his family died of AIDS because God was punishing him for being gay. I hated that no one talked about his childhood molestation. I hated that the church people failed to deliver him and yet he still believed that God hated him. I wish he had worked that out in the book but maybe that's the point. That kind of self-hatred doesn't just get worked out that's why men are hiding. I know that there are MSM all over the entertainment industry but the jump off parties he described were pretty salacious. It is an expose of deceptive black male sexuality but it's also an exploration of how tormented individuals can be when they feel like they have to hide themselves in plain sight. The book was a bit preachy and a bit woe is me-y but it did make me want to help create those spaces where black people can just be whatever type of people they need to be without judgment.

Kimberly Reese says

It is Terry's first book and I chat with him on fb and I told him I love it but I wish he would give names

Lani says

I tore through this book, but more to get it off of my shelf than anything else.

I don't really understand why a man who spends an entire book talking about how secretive his lifestyle is and how coming out would disrupt everything he and his 'down low brothers' are doing would then write a trashy expose slyly outing homosexuals in the entertainment industry.

The only aspect of the book that I found interesting was the (shallow) analysis of the black community's ways of addressing sexual topics like homosexuality and AIDS.

The book is poorly written, though this could just be a way to read authentically to a hip-hop audience. Sex scenes and descriptions of men and women are endlessly repetitive, and I got sick of hearing about how completely desirable Terrance is to every man he meets. Please learn some adjectives other than fine, golden-skinned, and bodacious.

Not really worth the read unless you're up on the hip-hop community and can actually identify all the folks who were awkwardly half-outed by the book. I'm not, and so couldn't even get that much out of it.

Kimberly Hicks says

I wasn't really sure how to feel about this book. For starters, I don't feel as though I learned anything new that I didn't already know, however, having said that, I think the biggest disappointment for me was that I

found the title of this book to be a bit misleading. Of course, one reading the title would think this is a book about men on the down low in the hip hop industry--and indeed that's what Terrance wrote about, but it was just surface speaking about the matter, and not really talking about hip hop music as a whole. Just because you name drop a few powerful rappers and their contribution to the hip hop genre, to me, doesn't classify this book as being a tell-all on the down low brothers in the industry.

With the exception of two individuals mentioned, everyone was given made up names to protect those brothers who want to remain on the down low and to protect their secret society, if you will. One thing that did open my eyes a great deal is that I'm beginning to wonder if not one out of every five brothers is a down low one. My God, there were so many he mentioned my jaw dropped. I'm like geez is every brother got a hint of this in him? Ummm, that was pretty raw and gritty. The sex scenes were pretty provocative and sexy, as I would definitely advise reader discretion due to some of the content written.

This wasn't a bad book by any means, I just felt the story was a bit redundant and I didn't feel as though Terrance gave the reader much, other than the obvious. I suppose had he truly "name dropped," he'd have to be under security 24/7. As it was, I'm sure many of them held their breath when they learned he was writing this novel. I didn't find the book that exciting, but I did learn a few things. One thing in particular I do wonder is when certain traumatic things happens to children, does that bear a huge responsibility as to their sexual preference later on in life? I was always of the mindset from what my gay friends have shared with me that they knew they were gay from the onset. However, if someone commits a heinous sexual act on a small impressionable child, could that possibly alter how they feel about sexuality? Or was it something that was always there?

Again, not a bad book, but I find the title misleading. There wasn't much talk about hip hop the way the title suggests. Not a bad read, but not my favorite. It's engaging enough that you'll continue to turn the pages, but I'm not so sure how the reader will comprehend what is being said?

Trey says

He's not the best writer, but I really like/appreciate his voice. You really get a sense of his experience, as he processed it, and I found that really compelling and educational.

Bruh says

If you hope, by reading this, you will find out the "scoop", on who is and is not SGL, in the entertainment industry, you might be slightly disappointed. What he reveals is so cryptic, that it may puzzle you further, than confirm those you may already suspect. Even when he speaks about someone, and you go, "Aha!", he later says something else about the person, that makes you think, "Well, ok, that couldn't have been Missy Elliott then...". Also, I might add, I sort of doubt all these already established superstars were just jumping to get off in his drawz. Terrance, you're an attractive Brotha, but

c'mon now! LOL! In my opinion, what makes this a good read, is how he tells of his beginnings, his interpersonal relationships inside his family, and out, and how he got started in the industry, and the resulting experiences he had. I enjoyed this book because of that. If any celebs, Hip Hop or not, were worried about being outed, their fears were unfounded. Still, this book is worthy.

Cookie says

Ha ha

I figured all the build-up to "exposing" these folks was a bunch of Bulls*** teasing in order to sell books.

All the people who bought this crap were bamboozled.

Who gives a rat's cunt "why" he is gay? I could give a fu** about him getting diddled a little as a youngster and his subsequent "struggles".

Cry me a river....we all have had bad things happen. And often times much worse than someone touching their little wee-wee a couple of times as a kid.

"I'm so confused and traumatized at 30 (and for the rest of my life) because my dick got touched when I was 6. And it's been "Flame on!" ever since!"

Gimme a goddamn break.

Boo f-ing hoo. Get over it, you f-in daisy. Just admit you love penises and man-ass and leave it at that.

Asswipe didn't even have the balls to use his own photo on the cover. He used a model. I guess so people he ripped off with this piece of turd book wouldn't recognize him on the street and kick his ass for wasting their time and money.

He promised exposure and did not deliver. All I think of him now is that he is a gutless faggot crybaby jerkoff. Nothing more.

Molly says

Let's face it: books that dish about steamy sexual relationships with celebrities are sordid and trashy but addictive. There's something about reading about famous people and seeing that they have the same issues and weaknesses as us mere mortals that is compelling. That's partly what made Karinne Steffans' franchise so interesting.

But this book? With the possibility of being really good, Terrance Dean just disappoints. He's talking about gay men in an industry that thrives on a homophobic image, yet he never really confronts the issue and the

culture surrounding it. I wasn't asking for him to outright out some celebrities, although that would've lent some credibility to it. I think I just wanted to see some humanity in the characters, which I did not. The writing is poor, and the narrative is choppy, but more importantly, the man has a really interesting story- but unfortunately doesn't know how to tell it.

Nikhil P. Freeman says

If you want to write a memoir, write a memoir. If you want to write a salacious tell-all book, then do it. However, do not try to mix the two, because when you do it fails miserably.

The blind item parts were an absolute mess. His life story was interesting, but I did not like how homosexuality was equated with molestation. Little gay boys and gay girls unfortunately are raped every day. The last thing that needs to happen is that when they find their voices and come of age is for some uninformed adult to say that a rape formed their sexuality.

Teri says

So much to say about this book... not much of it is good though. This book reads like a Tyler Perry movie/urban novel/blackbuster. At first, it's funny. It's a page turner. But after so long the redundancy grows annoying. For a while (and I mean A LOOOOONNNNGGG time) the author is in denial. He blames everyone (his family, the church, his job, the opposite sex) when it was him that was really the problem. He is irresponsible, indulgent, and careless.

I also don't agree with the title. This book is not in-depth about hip-hop and doesn't get much deeper when you take it to mean the entertainment industry especially when the author doesn't seem to peak in his career until he works with white people and not in a hip-hop spectrum. He's a queen. He loves attention to the very end and although he makes strides still doesn't learn his lesson in the end. (How can he turn down the hip hop mogul?)

But back to his attention whore tendencies. He sees no regret/ sorrow for the things he does, only fear when someone he knows dies from HIV/AIDS. It's aimless because he doesn't write the book to expose the people, the evils of these people, the industry, and doesn't make any significant strides when dealing with any of these things in direct relation to his sexuality. He can bitch & moan all he likes but doesn't do much to change the situation around him and rejects the things that could help him (LIKE CHURCH)

Lastly, this was also a hard read for me as a heterosexual woman who believes you can control what you want to get rid of in your life (no matter how extreme). Furthermore, this book did raise the debate in my head about people being born gay or choosing to be so. What else makes it a hard read? THE AUTHOR'S EXCESSIVE EXCUSES. I found his categorical break-down of the gay man disgusting. 3 categories and all I could really say is "YOU'RE ALL GAY. YOU'RE IN DENIAL AND ONLY ONE OF THESE CATEGORIES IS TRUTHFUL!" (the "out" gay man) He talks about how the world has wronged him but what about the marriages & relationships he forsakes. All his exploits with men in relationships are just irresponsible as the community that doesn't understand/accept his sexuality. Pathetic. The slight light at the tunnel within the last 40 pages of the book is the only reason this book earns 2 stars.

Cate says

Yikes. I know reading it concurrently with James Baldwin was going to doom it anyhow, but this is

abysmally written. Nonetheless, I kept reading because I wanted to see how the story ends -- I wanted to see how he unshackled himself from this self-hatred, and got on the path to acceptance. When the book ended, I did a serious "What the f***?!" SPOILER ALERT, I guess, but he doesn't even end up 100% accepting himself. He admits that he's gay, but he is still mostly closeted (out to a few family members and may admit it if you ask him directly). I found myself wondering how and why he wrote this book. You see, writing a book where you completely expose yourself should be cathartic. At the end, there should be some relief. There was none, just another down-low hook-up. Goodness, and the writing was so bad, the sex scenes weren't even hot. I really wanted to like this book, but I seriously did not.

Bookworm says

Journey to accepting oneself hidden within gossip on the film and music industries Terrance Dean is a black man seeking to find himself. Coming from a broken home where his mother was a drug addict and prostitute and never knowing his father, Dean wants to escape. Most of the book is about his time in Los Angeles and New York, making his mark in Hollywood, the media and music industries.

After being sexually molested by a male babysitter and reluctantly engaging in sex with an older female teenager, Dean questions his sexuality. He would pray to God to will away his feelings towards men. Compounding this is what appears to be a lack of open discussion in his family about sex, relationships and the molestation he dealt with as a teen.

And so after college Dean moves out to Los Angeles. The book essentially becomes a long list of parties, "fine" men Dean sees, his sexual encounters, etc. It was really interesting to see Dean (who is black) navigate the entertainment industry in the 80's and 90's while keeping the fact that he was not straight (for a time Dean thinks he is bisexual and has emotional and sexual relationships with women) on the "down low."

Eventually, he moves to New York and from there begins to see his life a little differently. He comes to terms with things, after seeing friends, acquaintances and even his own brothers and mother die from AIDS. Dean eventually moves into forgiveness and has open and frank discussions with his family about his sexual orientation. Not all people are so accepting, but he has come to terms with the fact that he is gay and might as well have it in the open.

At the end of the book we see he has left the world of Hollywood and music behind and is trying to empower men of color. Dean notes it's not easy to leave that world behind since many of his network contacts, lovers, friends, etc. all want to participate in some way.

Although the world Dean inhabits is so very different from my own, I couldn't help but be bored with the gossip. There's not a lot to go on for me to make educated guesses, although by now the book has been out for several years and one can easily Google who they think is named by the pseudonyms in the book. I wouldn't really read it for the gossip, although if you follow that world closely it might be fun. I found his overall journey much more interesting, and I wish his publisher had been more willing to have Dean write about that than his many hookups. Bought as a bargain book. Kinda wish I had borrowed it from the library instead.
