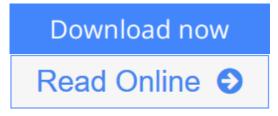


# Dr. Dre: The Biography

By Ronin Ro



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Born on February 18, 1965 to a sixteen-year-old single mom, Andre Young, AKA Dr. Dre, co-founded the notorious rap group N.W.A. The group was one of the most successful hip-hop groups of the late 1980s and, most importantly, started what the media quickly dubbed Gangsta Rap. His departure from N.W.A. was a story right out of a pulp fiction novel. His new mentor, Suge Knight, allegedly used guns, baseball bats and a kidnap threat to get Dr. Dre released from his contract. Dre and Knight went on to build Death Row Records and turned it into a multi-billion dollar company. Yet despite its unprecedented success with stars such as Snoop Doggy Dogg and Tupac Shakur, the company quickly unraveled in a firestorm of rivalries, greed, violence, and scrutiny by both the government and the media. Not one to fade into the background, Dr. Dre's next move was to start his own record company, Aftermath Entertainment. As CEO, he discovered and created new stars like Eminem, 50 Cent, The Game, and Eve. In this essential addition to any music section, award-winning author Ronin Ro details the rise, fall, and resurrection of one of the biggest names in rap music.



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## **Editorial Review**

# From Booklist

\*Starred Review\* Prolific rap chronicler Ro presents the most comprehensive treatment yet of a pivotal figure and founder of the rap industry. Dre has had a hand in nearly every development, feud, and trend since the early 1990s, when he and his seminal hip-hop aggregation N.W.A. (stands for Niggaz with Attitude, in case you've forgotten) emerged from Compton, California. He later managed, produced, or mentored superstars Busta Rhymes, Rakim, and 50 Cent and guaranteed platinum sellers Snoop Dog and Eminem. Ro uncovers a more reflective and introspective side of a man who has certainly seen it all, as far as the meteoric rise and contentious history of rap is concerned. In 1988, N.W.A. released *Straight Outta Compton*, arguably the first gangsta rap album. Its provocative tracks brought radio bannings and public hand-wringing about the threat to society N.W.A., its songs, and its ilk represented. It made N.W.A. notorious and wealthy and led to the founding of Death Row Records, the East-West rap feud, and the gangland-style murders of rival rappers. Dre maintained a thoughtful composure. Probably one of the 10 best books on rap. *Mike Tribby Copyright* © *American Library Association*. *All rights reserved* 

#### Review

"Prolific rap chronicler Ro presents the most comprehensive treatment yet of a pivotal figure and founder of the rap industry. Dre has had a hand in nearly every development, feud, and trend since the early 1990s, when he and his seminal hip hop aggregation N.W.A. (stands for Niggaz With Attitude, in case you've forgotten) emerged from Compton, California. He later managed, produced or mentored superstars Busta Rhymes, Rakim, and 50 Cent, and guaranteed platinum sellers Snoop Dog and Eminem. Ro uncovers a more reflective and introspective side of a man who has certainly seen it all, as far as the meteoric rise and contentious history of rap is concerned. In 1988, N.W.A. released Straight Outta Compton, arguably the first gangsta rap album. Its provocative tracks brought radio bannings and public hand-wringing about the threat to society N.W.A., its songs, and its ilk represented. It made N.W.A. notorious and wealthy, and led to the founding of Death Row Records, the east-west rap feud, and the gangland-style murders of rival rappers. Dre maintained a thoughtful composure. Probably one of the 10 best books on rap. -- *Booklist, April 15, 2007* 

# About the Author

Ronin Ro is an award-winning author and music journalist. He has written for *Vanity Fair*, *USA Today*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Vibe*, *The Source*, *The Boston Herald*, *Spin*, *Playboy*, and *Rolling Stone*. He is the author of five other books, including the critically acclaimed *Have Gun Will Travel: The Spectacular Rise and Violent Fall of Death Row Records*.

# **Users Review**

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