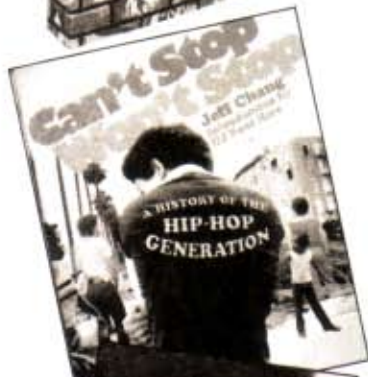
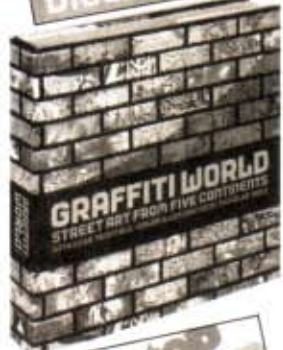
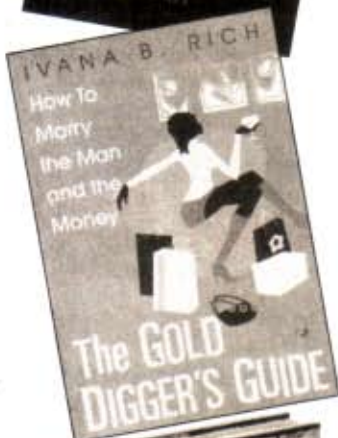


Book Bag



■ THE WU-TANG MANUAL

By The RZA
Riverhead Freestyle

With the sudden passing of Russell Jones (AKA Ol' Dirty Bastard, the Professor, the Bebop Specialist, Prince Delight, Ason Unique, Osiris, Big Baby Jesus, Dirt McGirt, Joe Bananas and many, many others) there's been a resurgence of young music fans wanting to discover the legendary group that put him on the map: the Wu-Tang Clan. Sure, you may know the name, but you don't know the myth or the legend behind this seminal hip-hop crew. To be a true fan, you must do more than listen to their music, you must enter the 36th chamber.

This guide to the Wu-Tang myths, written by the group's founder and "Abbot," The RZA, offers more than just profiles of the nine core members. The book explains the various philosophies, religions, movies, comics, martial arts and travels around Asia that inspired RZA when developing the Wu. It also details RZA's capitalistic practices, song lyrics and the future of his beloved clan. After completing *The Wu-Tang Manual* you will clearly understand why this team of rappers ain't nothing to f' wit.

■ THE GOLD DIGGER'S GUIDE: How To Marry The Man And The Money

By Ivana B. Rich
Dafina Books

Money — we all want it and some of us are capable of rising to the challenge it takes to earn that dough. However, there are plenty of people out there who'd rather take the easy way out and mooch their riches off someone else. Gold diggers are out there and chances are you're one of them.

If you're the type of girl who wouldn't mind marrying a guy simply because his money really does seem to grow on trees, then this is the book for you. This humorous "guide" (not meant to be taken seriously, mind you) will tell you exactly where to find the richest of the rich and give you pointers on how to sweep them off their perfectly pedicured feet. Full of quizzes, personal anecdotes and insights, Auntie Ivana will keep you laughing page after page, thinking: "maybe gold digging is the right career for me!"

■ GRAFFITI WORLD: Street Art From Five Continents

By Nicholas Ganz
Harry N Abrams

From the very beginning, the art of graf was one of the major elements of hip-hop culture. With young urban artists being ignored by the mainstream, they took to public spaces and walls to display their uniquely urban spin on art — regardless of the legality behind it all. Now, decades from its inception, graffiti is finally recognized as a legit form of art, with major galleries displaying pieces and artists coming out of hiding to earn their long-deserved respect. Essentially, graffiti has been fully accepted into America's mainstream pop-culture.

However, in countries outside of North America, hip-hop is still a budding culture full of hungry artists from all walks of life. In *Graffiti World*, Germany-residing graf artist Ganz (pen name: Keinom) has compiled over 2000 illustrations from over 150 artists incorporating a variety of mediums — including stickers, stencils, oils, acrylics and oil-based chalk — as well as an ever-expanding range of social commentary. For real hip-hop heads and graf fans alike, this is the holy grail of international graffiti.

■ CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP: A History Of The Hip-Hop Generation

By Jeff Chang, introduction by DJ Kool Herc
St. Martin's Press

When DJs, emcees, beat boxers, breakers, graf writers and locals gathered for block parties in the Bronx during the late-70s, they never thought, "This is going to be a worldwide phenomenon! A multi-billion dollar industry!" They were just havin' a good time — something that, by and large, can't be said about the current rap music scene. Jeff Chang digs deep into the history and development of hip-hop culture and what became the so-called "hip-hop generation" in this interesting and fun text. From its most humble beginnings through its evolution from social commentary and black militancy to the current state of hip-hop, Chang proves he's done his homework. Whether you agree or disagree, there's no denying that we are all a part of this hip-hop generation.

■ THE MOMENTS, THE MINUTES, THE HOURS: The Poetry Of Jill Scott

By Jill Scott
St. Martin's Press

Discovered by The Roots' drummer Questlove in 1999, Jill Scott has been a leader of the Philadelphia neo-soul scene ever since. She's a platinum-selling recording artist, an actress and has been both a Grammy and NAACP Image Award nominee. Without ever compromising her lush contemporary sound, Jill Scott has successfully conquered one challenge after the next. In *The Moments, The Minutes, The Hours* Scott rises to another challenge — poetry. Joining the likes of Alicia Keys, this beloved singer-songwriter puts her writing skills to the test with poems that range from haikus to verses about life, love, hate and sisterhood. Jill Scott proves, once again, that she can be many things — including an accomplished poet. **BB**