



To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic (Paperback)

By William Jelani Cobb

New York University Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.2007 Arts Club of Washington s National Award for Arts Writing - Finalist With roots that stretch from West Africa through the black pulpit, hip-hop emerged in the streets of the South Bronx in the 1970s and has spread to the farthest corners of the earth. To the Break of Dawn uniquely examines this freestyle verbal artistry on its own terms. A kid from Queens who spent his youth at the epicenter of this new art form, music critic William Jelani Cobb takes readers inside the beats, the lyrics, and the flow of hip-hop, separating mere corporate rappers from the creative MCs that forged the art in the crucible of the street jam. The four pillars of hip hop-break dancing, graffiti art, deejaying, and rapping-find their origins in traditions as diverse as the Afro-Brazilian martial art Capoeira and Caribbean immigrants turnstile artistry. Tracing hip-hop s relationship to ancestral forms of expression, Cobb explores the cultural and literary elements that are at its core. From KRS-One and Notorious B.I.G. to Tupac Shakur and Lauryn Hill, he profiles MCs who were pivotal...

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