



Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop

By Ben Westhoff

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Rap music from New York and Los Angeles once ruled the charts, but nowadays the southern sound thoroughly dominates the radio, Billboard, and MTV. Coastal artists like Wu-Tang Clan, Nas, and Ice-T call southern rap "garbage" but they're probably just jealous, as artists like Lil Wayne and T.I. still move millions of copies, and OutKast has the bestselling rap album of all time. In *Dirty South*, author Ben Westhoff investigates the southern rap phenomenon, watching rappers "make it rain" in a Houston strip club and partying with the 2 Live Crew's Luke Campbell. Westhoff visits the gritty neighborhoods where T.I. and Lil Wayne grew up, kicks it with Big Boi in Atlanta, and speaks with artists like DJ Smurf and Ms. Peachez, dance-craze originators accused of setting back the black race fifty years. Acting both as investigative journalist and irreverent critic, Westhoff probes the celebrated-but-dark history of Houston label Rap-A-Lot Records, details the lethal rivalry between Atlanta MCs Gucci Mane and Young Jeezy, and gets venerable rapper Scarface to open up about his time in a mental institution. *Dirty South* features exclusive interviews with the genre's most colorful players. Westhoff has written a journalistic tour de force, the definitive account of the most vital musical culture of our time. Ben Westhoff is a former staff writer for St. Louis's *Riverfront Times*, whose work has also appeared in the *Village Voice*, *Creative Loafing*, *Spin*, and *Pitchfork*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Journalist and hip-hop enthusiast Westhoff delivers a fascinating exploration of the musical and personal terrain of what has come to be known as the Southern sound of rap by such artists as Lil Wayne, Young Jeezy, and Ludacris. Westhoff convincingly details how Southern rap music—"party music, full of hypnotic hooks and sing-along choruses"—took over from dominant East Coast and West Coast rap styles by replacing "normal rap structures and metaphor-heavy rhymes... in favor of chants, grunts and shouts." In fact, the beauty of Westhoff's descriptions of the genre as a whole and various songs in particular will make old fans as well as newbies want to search out and play classic CDs such as OutKast's "Aquemini" and "Kings of Crunk" by Lil Jon. And Westhoff's personal trips to the home bases of each artist he presents show how the personalities of the artists reinforce their music, which leads to scenes such as Lil Wayne's equally impassioned and hilarious defense of his fast-paced, workaholic lifestyle: "What am I supposed to do, take a vacation? This is the vacation right here." (May)

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Review

"Unprecedented in its research of the origins of Southern Hip-Hop, this gem is key to understanding the catalyst that caused the 21st Century Dirty South explosion." --*The Source*

"*Dirty South* is a must-read for anybody interested in hip-hop's ever-growing role in America's cultural consciousness." --Zack O'Malley Greenburg, *Forbes*

"Even if you only barely recognize the names in the full title...you can still understand and enjoy Ben Westhoff's new book." --Andrew Matson, *Seattle Times*

"[A] consistently entertaining and enlightening chronicle of hip-hop below the Mason-Dixon line." --Martin Caballero, *Dig Boston*

"A fascinating exploration of the musical and personal terrain of what has come to be known as the Southern sound of rap." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Westhoff offers an excellent introduction to hip-hop in the South that will be informative and enjoyable for both newbies and those familiar with Southern hip-hop...A great introduction to Southern hip-hop, and a fun book for those familiar with the genre and its artists." —*Library Journal*

"Packed with lively reporting and colorful social history...doesn't shy away from the bigger questions. Westhoff grapples with Southern rap's troubling racial politics and takes on the critics." —*Rolling Stone*

From the Inside Flap

"My boy Ben Westhoff is the boss of southern hip hop writers." -Slim Thug, popular Houston rapper

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Warden:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Nathaniel Marvel:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book compared to can satisfy your limited time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be go through. Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop can be your answer as it can be read by you actually who have those short spare time problems.

Dorothy Vinson:

Beside this Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop in your phone, it can give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or facts. The information and the knowledge you are going to got here is fresh from the oven so don't end up being worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow town. It is good thing to have Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop because this book offers to you readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you do not get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss that? Find this book as well as read it from today!

Homer Holmes:

Some individuals said that they feel fed up when they reading a guide. They are directly felt this when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose typically the book Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading talent is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the impression about book and studying especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to open a book and read it. Beside that the guide Dirty South: OutKast, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy, and the Southern Rappers Who Reinvented Hip-Hop can to be a newly purchased friend when you're feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of the time.

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