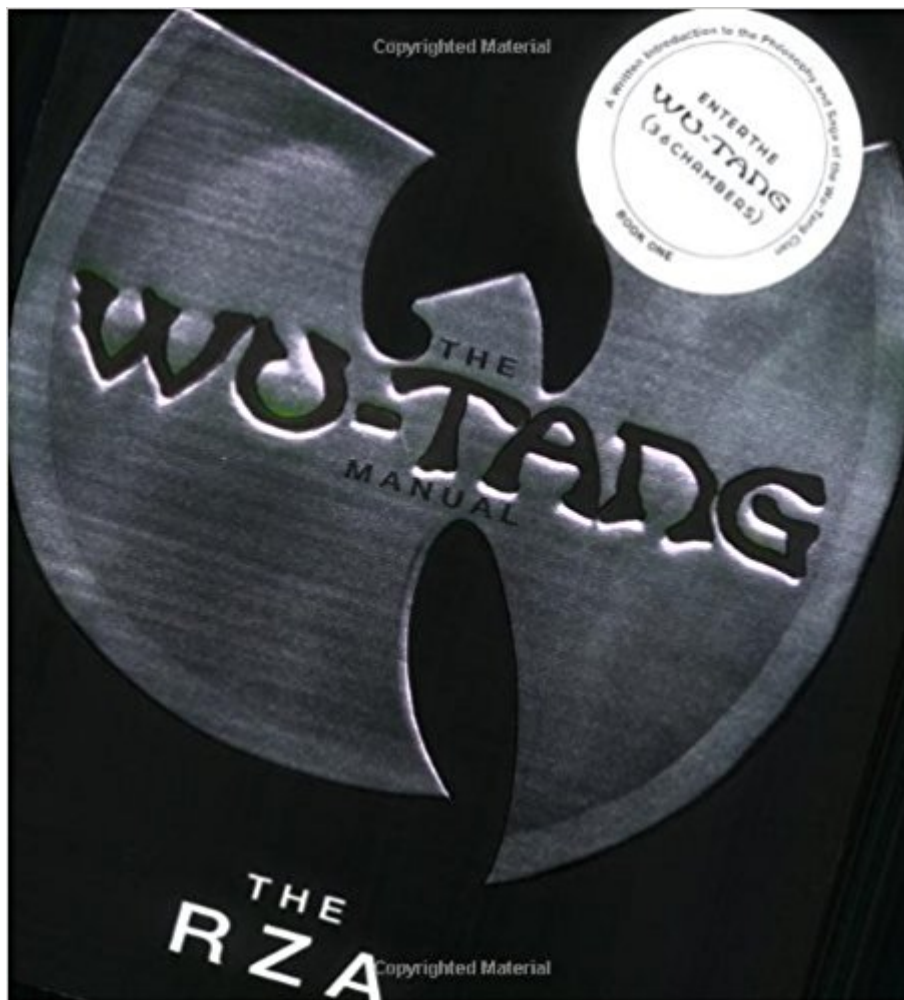


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The Wu-Tang Manual



Synopsis

The Wu-Tang Manual is The RZA's first written introduction to the philosophy and history of Hip-Hop's original Dynasty, the Wu-Tang Clan. Written in a style that is at once personal and philosophical, The Wu-Tang Manual unravels the intricate web of personalities (and alter egos), warrior codes, numerological systems, and Eastern spiritual ethics that define the Wu-Tang dynasty. Packed with information that reflects the breadth and depth of the RZA's and rest of the Clan's intellectual interests and passions, The Wu-Tang Manual is divided into four books of nine chambers each, for a total of 36 chambers. All together, the book provides the breakdown of essential Wu-Tang components, from basic information about each of the nine core members of Wu-Tang Clan to deeper explorations of the key themes of the Wu-Tang universe, a dictionary-like Wu-Slang lexicon, and an entire section of Wu-Tang's lyrics with densely annotated explanations of what they mean. For the hardcore Wu-Tang disciple and the recent initiate alike, The Wu-Tang Manual is the definitive guide to the essence of Wu, one of the most innovative hip-hop groups of all time. The RZA's most recent book, The Tao of Wu, is also available from Riverhead Books.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-In the late 1970s, Robert Diggs was growing up in a New York housing project. He spent his time with his many cousins and watching kung fu movies in Times Square. Later, he turned his interests in martial arts, spirituality, chess, comics, and rap music into one of the most successful rap groups of the 1990s-the Wu-Tang Clan. Named for a type of Shaolin martial arts, the

Clan consists of Diggs-The RZA-two of his cousins, and six other members. The author shares all that went into making the group what it is, a curious mix of Eastern philosophy, supreme mathematics, capitalism, and, not least, talent. Nearly a quarter of the book is dedicated to lyrics, including a deep analysis of what each rapper meant. The Wu-Tang's lyrics are full of violence, drugs, and slang, but also well-executed metaphors, symbolism, and their philosophy realized. It's rare that rap lyrics are given this level of analysis, let alone in such a readable fashion. The book is full of photographs of the members and information about their work and interests, which include drugs, both legal and illegal. Even this topic is treated with intellectual detachment: "You can't say [drugs] are all bad or they're all good." (Sadly, since the book's publication, founding member ODB died from a drug-related incident.) Even though the Wu-Tang's greatest success came in the 1990s, they are still highly relevant and have many teen fans, all of whom will find something appealing in this account.-Jamie Watson, Harford County Public Library, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The RZA is most famous as the founder and leader of the Wu-Tang Clan, the platinum-selling hip-hop group that is widely considered one of the most important of all time. He has continued his music career while successfully branching out into lecturing, television, and film.

If you are a fan of hip hop, an artist, a hustler or whatever, you would do well to read this book. RZA expands on the concepts of supreme mathematics, cinema, brotherhood, the music biz and most importantly philosophy. The book was very insightful and really explained the truth the birth of the Wu Tang, its members and its ideals. RZA is a true 21st century renaissance man. I was not the biggest Wu fan ever but I wanted to check this book out none the less and I'm glad I did. It's not an especially long read but you will enjoy it if you are a fan of the culture. Pick this book up, it will be well worth it

I got this as a gift for a friend and she absolutely loved it!

Whether you like WU-TANG or not this book is fantastic. The book is a fantastic story about life in NYC, how the members met, grew up and their life experiences. Besides being a Wu-Tang fan I have read many auto-biographies and biographies and few begin to compare to the Wu-Manual. The book is fun, exciting, dramatic, captivating and inspiring. If you're even thinking about purchasing this book just stop and buy it it's worth the cream. My first copy I spilled a drink on and ruined it. I didn't think

twice about purchasing another copy.

awesome book

To start i love music. Ive always loved the WU TANG CLAN but after reading this book along with "The Tao of Wu" I got a different understanding of where their lyrics and style comes from. I have passed this book to a couple of friends and they also enjoyed it because they also said that it give them a different outlook on the music.

Two thumbs up

I actually had to buy this for a university composition class. Interesting insight into the history of the Wu and analysis of lyrics.

Great book exactly what I expected

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