

Street Fiction

Writings about the grim realities of life in the projects and ghettos of America's cities

Berry, Bertice The Haunting of Hip-Hop A Harlem brownstone is haunted by an African drummer who died a slave, a singer killed by her white lover, and a boy murdered by his father.

Boyd, Herb (Editor) The Harlem Reader (Story Coll) Harlem's history unfolds through stories, poems, reminiscences, and essays from notables like Du Bois, Malcolm X, and Chester Himes .

Brown, Claude Manchild in the Promised Land (BIO) A young criminal tries to survive Harlem's streets in this frank portrayal of life for African-Americans in the Northern ghettos.

Goines, Donald Daddy Cool A cold-blooded hit man becomes a protective father when his daughter is drawn into a smooth-talking pimp's stable.

Himes, Chester Cotton Comes to Harlem (MYS) Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones are after thieves who are trying to steal money marked for the Back-to-Africa movement.

Holmes, Shannon Bad Girlz Young girls get mixed up in the sex trade as prostitutes and strippers in order to survive the streets of the Badlands, a harsh community in Philadelphia.

Iceberg Slim Doom Fox In the ghetto of post-World War II Los Angeles, heavyweight contender Joe "Kong" Allen longs for Reba who is engaged to another man, "Pretty" Melvin.

Jones, Solomon Pipe Dream (MYS) After a Puerto Rican city councilman is shot dead in a Philly crack house, four suspected crack addicts try to elude the police.

Kennedy, Erica Bling Toledo's Mimi Jean comes to New York and is transformed into a ghetto girl and singer by the head of a hip-hop recording label, the playboy Lamont Jackson.

Miller, Karen Ida B Harlem's fictitious Ida B. Barrett Wells Tower is home to Brenda, Rosa, and Sharif—three friends who support each other in face of the dangers in Ida B.

Mosley, Walter Walkin' the Dog Nine years released from prison, Socrates Fortlow tries to lead a normal life in a small shack in a Watts alley, in spite of constant police harassment.

Mowry, Jess Way Past Cool A drug dealer tries to incite a gang war in Oakland's streets so that he can seize the turf of rival gangs.

Phillips, Gary Bad Night is Falling (MYS) P.I. Ivan Monk is hired by a L.A. Black Muslim group to clear them of responsibility for a firebombing of a Latino housing project.

Ridley, John Everybody Smokes in Hell Denizen of L.A.'s underbelly, Paris Scott is a loser, until a rock star's final recording and a large amount of coke accidentally fall into his lap.

Sapphire Push Precious Jones, a Harlem teenager who is HIV-positive and twice pregnant by her father, enters a program where she learns to write about her life.

Souljah, Sister The Coldest Winter Ever The life of the pampered daughter of a drug dealer unravels when her mother is shot, her father sent to prison, and she enters the family trade.

Stringer, Vickie Imagine This Single mother Pamela has an alter-ego named "Carmen," a street smart hustler, who now faces a choice between being true to the streets and being a snitch.

Thomas, Piri Down These Mean Streets (BIO) A dark-skinned Puerto Rican comes of age on the mean streets of Spanish Harlem, which eventually lead him to prison.

Tramble, Nichelle The Dying Ground Ex-baseball player Maceo Redfield finds himself caught up in the Oakland drug wars of 1989 when he investigates the murder of a friend.

Tyree, Omar Flyy Girl A materialistic middle class black teen tries to get ahead in 1980's Philadelphia through using men, but is caught short by a life of empty sex.

Weber, Carl Baby Momma Drama Sisters Jasmine and Stephanie have no luck in love as they bounce from man to man and bed to bed, often trading stability for exciting trouble.

Wesley, Valerie No Hiding Place [MYS] PI Tamara Hayle investigates the murder of an inner-city Newark man, who, as a boy, had been protected by her now dead brother.

Wideman, John Philadelphia Fire The 1985 firebombing of the MOVE headquarters, a Philadelphia black anarchist group, draws an expatriate black writer back to his city.

Woods, Paula Inner City Blues (MYS) A black detective saves a black doctor from a beating during the L.A. riots after the Rodney King verdict, but then investigates his murder.

Woods, Teri True to the Game Success in the 1980's drug trade of Philadelphia's inner city promises great wealth but an uncertain future filled with predatory competitors and murder.

Wright, Richard Native Son The murder of the daughter of a family of rich, white liberals places a twenty-year-old black Chicagoan in the spotlight of racial inequality and black rage.

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