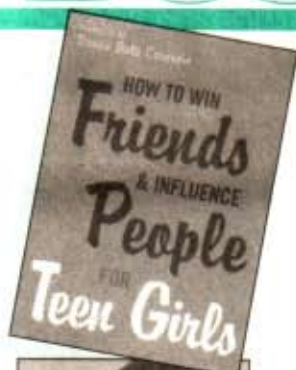


Book Bag



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE PEOPLE FOR TEEN GIRLS

Presented by Donna Dale Carnegie
Fireside Books

Being a girl is like an ongoing competition and the minute girls hit their teen years, the competition goes into overdrive. Popularity contests, friends, looks, dating, peer pressure and all the other stuff that teens deal with in general is multiplied tenfold when you're a female. Poor girls, for they have their trifling ways. Fortunately, there are a number of professionals out there dedicated to helping teenage girls through this most complex era of their life.

As the daughter of the late motivational author, Dale Carnegie, Donna Carnegie presents a guide so comprehensive that it would've made her father proud. The book offers time-tested advice on topics ranging from peer pressure to gossip. After you're done with the book, you'll be able to influence others, defuse arguments, admit mistakes and make self-defining choices. For older teens, the book also tackles important moments such as driving, college applications and interviews. Full of quizzes, "reality check" sections and true-life examples, this is the perfect book for a teenage girl who could use a little advice to get through her day.



HOW TO WIN AT COLLEGE: Surprising Secrets For Success From The Country's Top Students

By Cal Newport
Broadway Books

Okay kids, you've done all the applications, essays, visits and interviews — you're finally on your way to your number one college of choice. But now what? You've got to keep your grades up or else you'll lose your grants and financial aid, disappoint your parents, and most importantly, not live up to the full potential you know you're capable of. You're not in elementary school anymore, you've got to excel and with the help of this easy-to-read guide you'll earn that honors-worthy GPA in no time.

Author Cal Newport was a standout student himself, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College. In his book he interviewed the country's top students from colleges ranging from Harvard to the University of Arizona to come up with 75 simple rules that will guarantee success throughout your undergraduate studies. Some of the tips might actually surprise you, such as "Don't do all your reading" or "Drop classes every term." That might all seem illogical, but this book provides more than enough reasoning behind each tip. Now that you've taken your education to the next level, might as well make the best of it.

COUNTRY FRIED SOUL: Adventures in Dirty South Hip-Hop

By Tamara Palmer
Backbeat Books

It's no secret that over the last couple of years, hip-hop has relocated from its roots in the South Bronx, to the muddy waters of the Dirty South. As hip-hop culture continues to spread its influence across the

globe, chances are we'll be seeing many different variations come to fruition in the mainstream. Until then, the current ruler is the South's spin on rap music and hip-hop culture, one that is quite different in both sound and presentation than its East or West coast counterparts.

Country Fried Soul digs deep into the history of hip-hop in the South, chronicling the forefathers and innovators of the genre and what the future has in store. Complete with interviews from some of the South's finest, from Coe-Lo and Ludacris to Lil Jon and Young Buck, this comprehensive guide also notes many of the cultural differences and lists the best of Southern hip-hop currently available on CD, DVD, magazines, and on the web. If you're hungry for some Dirty South crunk action, then get your *Country Fried Soul* on.

PICTURE ME ROLLIN'

By Black Artemis
New American Library

It was only a matter of time before Tupac Shakur's legacy started to touch the young hearts and minds of even fictional characters. Acclaimed author Black Artemis returns to the world of hip-hop novels with *Picture Me Rollin'*, and while 'Pac never physically appears in her fictional tale of love and crime, his presence is certainly felt.

The story is something that many young inner-city adults can probably relate to: dealing with a loved one who is caught up in criminal activity, with promise of leaving it all behind once the right situation plays itself out. That is the story of Esperanza Cepeda, a girl who takes the rap on a gun charge in order to keep her man Jesus from being locked up. Upon her release, she grows obsessed with the power, poetry and passion of 'Pac and vows to live a straight life. Of course, such a life is easier said than done when she's easily convinced by Jesus, who's still doing dirt. Will he be able to move them out to the West Coast to live the perfect life after just one more hustle? Or will she get it together and prevent further tragedy in her life? Whatever the outcome, it seems that Black Artemis has penned yet another piece of hip-hop fiction that'll have you at the edge of your seat 'til the very last page.

SO YOU WANNA BE A ROCK & ROLL STAR: How I Machine-Gunned a Roomful of Record Executives and Other True Tales From a Drummer's Life

By Jacob Slichter
Broadway Books

So maybe you love hip-hop and R&B, but more than anything else, you look forward to *Black Beat's* "Alternative" department every month because deep down inside you want to rock out with a live band in front of thousands of screaming fans. Yes, you want to be a rock star. Rappers may live the good life, with their spinning rims and all, but rock stars not only express their emotion through instruments, guitar and drum solos and exciting stage shows, but they also go crazy when on tour. In this funny recollection of his time with the band Semisonic (who had their 15 minutes of fame with the song, "Closing Time") Slichter details everything that goes into being a full-blown rock star.

Slichter couldn't have been a better choice to scribe such a book. As a Harvard graduate with a degree in Afro-American studies and history, he never needed to become a rock star. He takes readers on a "step-by-step journey of his evolution from fledgling drummer to globe-trotting performer" in order to provide a humbled account of the inner workings of the music industry. As you read, you may realize that maybe the rock 'n roll world isn't so much different than the hip-hop world. **BB**

