



The Dozens: A History of Rap s Mama (Hardback)

By Independent Scholar Elijah Wald

Oxford University Press, USA, United States, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Following his groundbreaking explorations of the blues and American popular music in *Escaping the Delta* and *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock n Roll*, Elijah Wald turns his attention to the tradition of African American street rhyming and verbal combat that ruled urban neighborhoods long before rap: the viciously funny, outrageously inventive insult game called the dozens. At its simplest, the dozens is a comic concatenation of yo mama jokes. At its most complex, it is a form of social interaction that reaches back to African ceremonial rituals. Whether considered vernacular poetry, verbal dueling, a test of street cool, or just a mess of dirty insults, the dozens has been a basic building block of African-American culture. A game which could inspire raucous laughter or escalate to violence, it provided a wellspring of rhymes, attitude, and raw humor that has influenced pop musicians from Jelly Roll Morton to Ice Cube. Wald explores the depth of the dozens roots, looking at mother-insulting and verbal combat from Greenland to the sources of the Niger, and shows its breadth of influence in the...



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