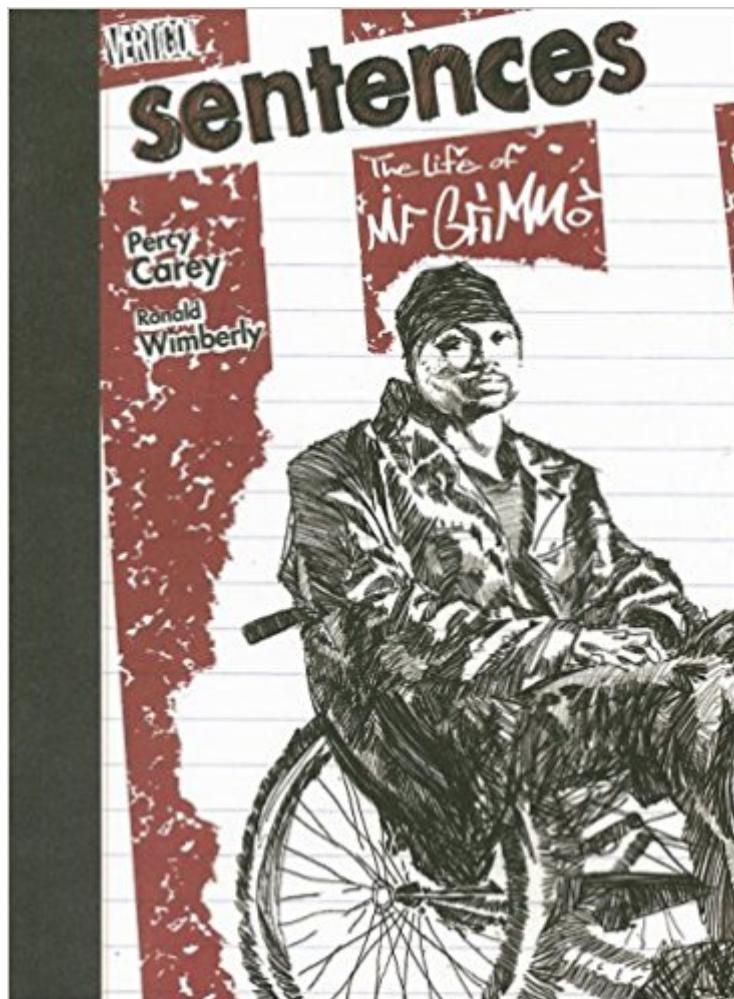


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# Sentences: The Life Of M.F. Grimm



## Synopsis

Written by Percy Carey Art and cover by Ronald Wimberly Underground rap icon Percy Carey tells the true story of his life in the "Hip-Hop Game" - the dizzying heights and heartbreakng losses - in the raw and brutally honest hardcover graphic novel memoir SENTENCES: THE LIFE OF M.F. GRIMM. In SENTENCES, Carey chronicles his life in the sometimes glamorous, and often violent, hip-hop industry; from the first time he picked up a microphone at a block party as a youngster, to the day he lost the use of his legs to gang violence, to his incarceration, and eventually, to his self-reinvention and rise back to the top of his game, becoming a Hip-Hop Grand Master and being placed among the pantheon of the culture. No questions are left unanswered and no apologies are made, resulting in what's sure to be a groundbreaking graphic novel. Joining Carey is up-and-coming artist Ronald Wimberly (LUCIFER, HELBLAZER: PAPA MIDNITE covers), who breathtakingly illustrates this gritty tale of righteous redemption. If what you know about hip-hop is the flashy cars and voluptuous women that music videos try to sell, be prepared to experience the real side of the industry that only someone who has survived the rise, fall, and rise again, can tell.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Black, white and gray are the appropriate palette for this somber autobiographical narrative. Carey covers his experiences from his years as a child performer on Sesame Street through hip-hop stardom as MF Grimm. His simultaneous life as a dope dealer leads to a darker turn, as a drug-feud ambush leaves him paralyzed from the waist down. The story follows his subsequent time in prison

and his current career as an entertainment producer. Along the way, he gives glimpses of the mother who fiercely defended him and the neighborhood that nurtured him, but he gives more stress to his exploits as a thug, his meetings with hip-hop stars he considered rivals and/or peers, and the hunger for money and recognition that led him to take dangerous risks. Wimberly's art reinforces Carey's raw script—solid dark masses engulfing graceful, jittery linework in the style of Eduardo Russo's 100 Bullets, but the full impact of Carey's experiences doesn't come through. So many things are happening that it's hard to remember who's doing what to whom, and why it matters. That's unfortunate, because Carey wants to make his life meaningful as he urges young readers to choose something besides guns and crime. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Born and raised in Manhattan, Percy Carey has been a part of the hip-hop community since the early 1990s. He was known for being a fierce battle MC, and was pondering several record deals when an attempt was made on his life in 1993. He was left paralyzed from the neck down but eventually regained the use of his arms. From his wheelchair, Carey rebounded into his music, releasing classic underground singles on Bobbito Garcia's Fondle Em Records as well as his legendary recorded work with MF Doom and The Monster Island Czars. After serving time and beating a life sentence for conspiracy to distribute narcotics, Carey created Day By Day Entertainment to promote and develop musicians across the rock and hip hop spectrum.

I am a high school student who just finished reading this book for a class. Enjoy! Percy Carey's a.k.a. M.F. Grimm's memoir "Sentences: The Life of M.F. Grimm" is wrought with enough grief, trouble and experience to last a lifetime. Carey begins the memoir by depicting the critical moment in his life, the moment when he is shot, and as a result, confined to a wheelchair for life. This opening grabs the reader and pulls him into the next two chapters of the story, where Percy Carey describes himself as a stubborn yet determined adolescent. These traits lead him into becoming an aspiring emcee known as M.F. Grimm. From here on Carey describes the struggles he had to endure along the road to following his dream. These struggles include the loss of loved ones, deadly gang fights, poverty, wealth, time in prison, and creating art that sends his message. Carey's memoir is different however, from that of a conventional author. "Sentences" is a graphic novel, which works in two ways. It evokes deeper and more intense emotions from most readers, and the artistic style helps convey the rising hip-hop culture during the 1980's-1990's. Through the well illustrated story panels I felt in touch with each individual character. Also, the illustrations created a

flow to the memoir that effectively conveyed the book's themes. One man theme that stuck out for me was that 'wisdom comes from experience'. Carey's life as depicted in his memoir has been full of experiences both good and bad. These events have led him to a position where he can guide those younger than him onto a moral path. I see this as a chief trait in having wisdom. Another theme is the 'coming of age story'. This is present when Carey describes his transformation from a young, trouble-making boy into an experienced man. For those of you who are interested in the evolution of hip-hop, I strongly recommend this graphic novel. It is a page-turner that I feel accurately portrays the 1990's Brooklyn culture. The detailed illustrations add heavily to the quality of "Sentences" as a memoir. However, the rampant use of curse words was unnecessary and detracted from the value of the memoir. For an adult man who is writing a novel to steer young men away from the dangerous lifestyle he chose, the vulgar language seemed out of place. Overall 3 out of 5 stars.

I give this Book 5 stars for one Reason. Its Based on Real Events surrounding Percy Carey AKA MF Grimm, in this story we see the Real Evil that lives in our inner cities that plague our youth, I recommend this book to anyone who is a Vertigo Fan, a Fan of REAL Hip-Hop, or a fan of MF Grimm. Cop The Album, then Pick this Up.

Spellbound throughout the entire read

This man has lived a life worth writing a graphic novel about. Very entertaining.

great experience

I heard Percy Carey on Terri Gross' fresh air. He's what happens to you when you DON'T learn how to argue well, and stay stuck in the scorched-earth policies of the dog parks: he hurled his body through life, eventually got shot, and ended up in a wheelchair and crawling around in prison. Now I don't usually care about such stories because I've been around too much craziness, but it was a good and scary-sweet/little-big story precisely because Percy Carey is so humbled and becomes like this Zen master guy, without turning into a frail white vegan guy with a crew cut and glasses. After blustering around like a peacock with all the other boys, he finally turns into this seriously major MAN. Someone you quietly nod respect to. He's amazing and I hope he does well from here on out. His book is an amazing gift and he's truly good people. People who were never

bad can be scary boring and suddenly snap and stab you. But people who never grow out of all that kid stuff are downright tedious. But not this man. You can tell he not only went through a physical death, but a spiritual death and has come through it. Anyone who had to crawl around a holding cell without his chair...whoa, I've only spent a day or two in jail and being that close to the ground for multiple days is enough to make you a holy man right there. And you've gotta really die to live, right? Well his life and Truth radiates through the pages. Anyhow, buy Percy Carey's book **NEW** because you want to support an artist like that who's trying to do his own thing after all that hell. He doesn't get a cent off the used copies for sale here. Besides, it's a beautifully illustrated story on glossy paper. Do you really want someone else's greasy, grubby fingerprints on your new book? You've heard those studies about all that stuff they find on people's dirty hands on keyboards and doorknobs, right? Buy his work new! It's worth it.--Erika Lopez, San Francisco

A very engaging story. One of my favorite graphic novels I have had the pleasure of reading. I went into this not knowing anything about the subject matter and was very pleasantly surprised. This story follows a rapper throughout his life and the many challenges he had to face. I don't want to reveal any spoilers so this review will remain nondescript. I personally enjoyed this and I hope you will too. Highly recommended!

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