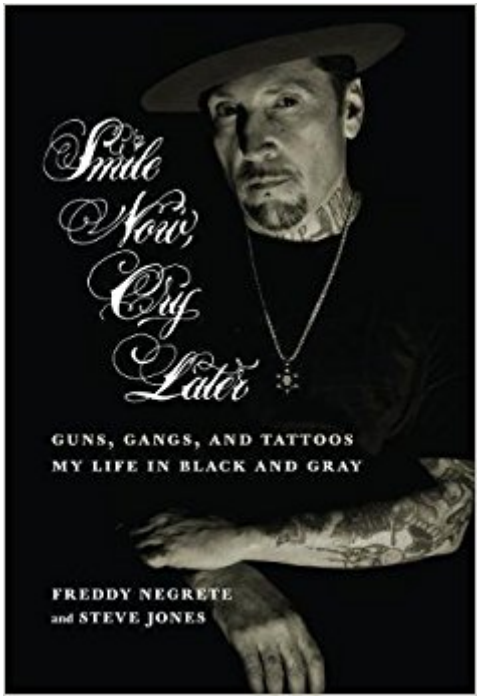
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Smile Now, Cry Later: Guns, Gangs, And Tattoos-My Life In Black And Gray



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Synopsis

Pioneering black-and-gray tattoo artist Freddy Negrete was twelve years old and confined in the holding cell of a Los Angeles juvenile facility when an older teenager enteredÃ¢â ¬â •covered in tattoos. Freddy was in awe, not just of the art, but of what it symbolized, and he wanted what this kid had: the potent sense of empowerment and belonging that came from joining a gang. The encounter drove Freddy to join the notorious gang La Sangra, and it didn't take long before he was a regular guest at LA County's juvenile detention facilities. By the age of twenty-one, Freddy had spent almost his whole life as a ward of the state in one form or the other.Enthralled by the black-and-gray tattoo style that in the 1970s was confined to the rebel culture of Chicano gangsters and criminals, Freddy started inking himself with hand-poked tattoos. Everyone wanted a piece of Freddy's black-and-gray style--gangbangers but also Hollywood starlets and film producers.In a riveting narrative that takes the reader from Freddy's days as a cholo gang member to evangelical preacher to Hollywood body art guru to addiction counselor, Smile Now, Cry Later is, ultimately, a testament to that spark within us all, that catalyst which gives us the strength to survive, transform, and transcend all that can destroy us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The precision, mastery, and nuance ofÃ Â NegreteÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work in skin emerged from a personal history of triumph over a volatile youth. His life story is an inspirational testament to the possibilities of the human spirit."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Don Ed Hardy Ã¢â ¬Å“Freddy's work speaks to

people Ã¢â ¬Â¦ He is not a tattoo artist. He is an artist, who is a master tattooer as well."Ã¢â ¬â •Dave Navarro, guitarist (Jane's Addiction) and host of Spike TV's InkmasterÃ Â "[Freddy Negrete] was the man who took the Chicano, black-and-gray, joint-style straight out of the prisons and to the top of the tattoo world. To this day, Freddy's work never ceases to amaze me."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Danny Trejo, actor (Spy Kids, From Dusk Till Dawn)"Freddy Negrete's story is about how even the most troubled young man has vital gifts for the world, intrinsic to who he's meant to be, and filling a void only that an artist can fill. Freddy is a true vato loco, yet he pioneered the aerosol art of the barrio back in the 1970s and also the now famous tattoo style of the black-and-grey, both of which came from the Chicano barrio gang experience he was a part of. His story needs to break out of whatever confines such stories usually end up. His is the story of our time."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Luis J. Rodriguez, author of the memoirÃ Â Always Running,Ã Â La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A., andÃ Â It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing"By the time I met Freddy he'd probably been my idol for four years. Freddy's just pure magic . . . something right every time."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Mark Mahoney, owner of the Shamrock Social Club, Sunset Strip, LA, whose clients include Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie, and David Beckham"You may think your favorite artist is an O.G. of the tattoo world. But compared with Freddy Negrete, almost everyone else is still a rookie. As one of the most experienced and influential tattoo artists in the world, Negrete was already making a name for himself before many of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s top tattooers could walk."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •LA Weekly"Freddy NegreteÃ¢â ¬â„¢s former life is as dark and forbidding as a thick lined skull tattoo on the face of a menacing gangbanger. Vivid and to the point, SMILE NOW, CRY LATER takes you from Negrete as a Ã¢â ¬Å“cholo gang member to evangelical preacher to Hollywood body art guru to addiction counselorÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •which is one hell of a journey. This memoir by Negrete and Steve Jones is riveting and intense and I couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t put it down."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Patrick O'Neil,Ã Â the author of Gun, Needle, Spoon, .com Reader Review

Legendary tattoo artist FREDDY NEGRETE is best known for his pioneering black-and-gray tattoo style, honed while serving time in a series of correctional facilities during a youth mired in abuse, gang life, and drug addiction. His "joint-style" designs eventually found their way out onto the streets of East LA and, in 1980, he created a piece that earned him a Tattoo Artist of the Year Award. After a ten-year period of renouncing his tattooing success in favor of bible study and becoming the pastor of his own church, Freddy eventually returned to tattooing in 1990 to find that he had become a tattoo superstar during the decade he had been away from the life. Freddy has been featured in

the History Channel's Marked series, in the documentary Tattoo Nation, on Spike TV's Inkmaster as a guest judge, and in numerous print, online, and video publications. In 2007, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Body Art Expo, one of the biggest and most established tattoo conventions in the world. Having suffered the ravages of drug addiction for many years, Freddy is now also certified to work closely with young addicts at Beit T'Shuvah in Los Angeles, a treatment center based on Jewish spirituality and Twelve Step principles. Freddy lives in Hollywood with his son Isaiah, who is also a successful tattoo artist. They both work at the Shamrock Social Club on the Sunset Strip and have tattooed numerous celebrities, musicians, and sport personalities.

It took me two days to finish this book. This book had a profound effect on me. I cried, I smiled, I read parts that I completely identified with. The main feeling I have after reading this book is a better understanding of life. This book was inspiring. It's funny I had no clue about Freddy Negrete. When I met him I Immediately liked him. As I watched him work I was so captivated by how he was doing my tattoo. I have two other tattoos but this was different. I feel honored to have the tattoo of my dreams done by a artist such as Freddy. After reading his book I feel grateful and humbled to have met such an authentic human being. In the book he really shares his life with you in such a way that you can't stop reading. I loved this book! Sincerely Shellie M

There's nothing that I disliked about this this book. I respect this Man to the fullest . And for sure he is one of greatest tattoo artist . Great book if you haven't got it yet you need to get it . Thanks Freddy God Bless You ...

AWESOME

Excellent book. Usually takes me a week to finish a book of this size but I read this one cover to cover. Couldn't put it down. It was very fast paced and kept me wondering what was going to happen next. Freddy is a true pioneer and has a very inspirational message.

Amazing would be am understatement! This book is fantastic and so very well written. And having known Freddy since i was 16 i really learned alot of new things about him. I highly recommend this book to everyone.

Excellent!

Great

Awesome!!!

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