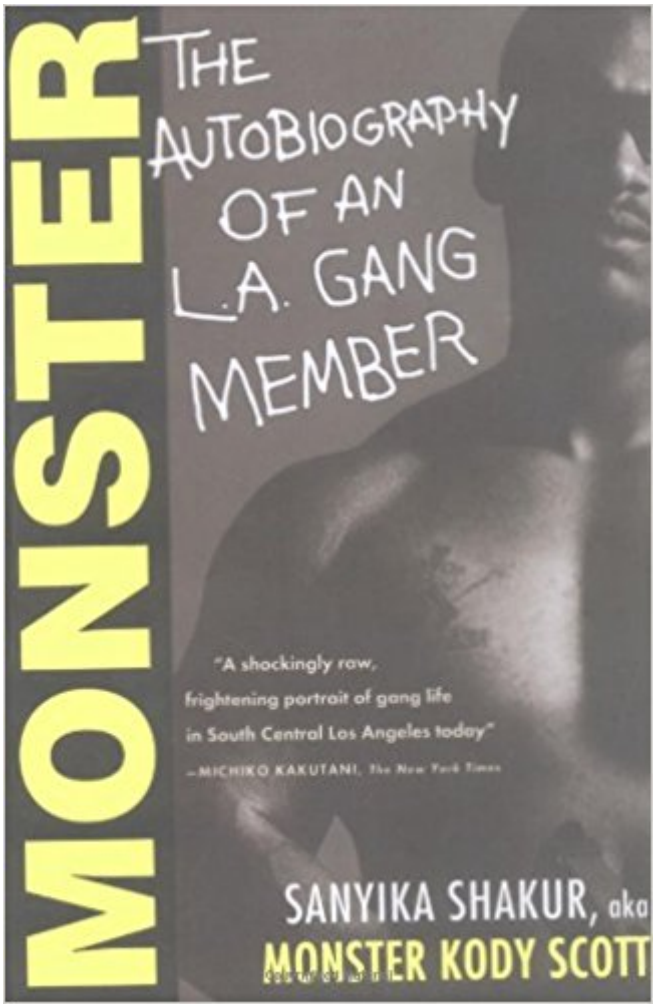
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Monster: The Autobiography Of An L.A. Gang Member



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Synopsis

Written in solitary confinement, Kody ScottÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memoir of sixteen years as a gangbanger in Los Angeles was a searing best-seller and became a classic, published in ten languages, with more than 300,000 copies in print in the United States alone. After pumping eight blasts from a sawed-off shotgun at a group of rival gang members, twelve-year-old Kody Scott was initiated into the L.A. gang the Crips. He quickly matured into one of the most formidable Crip combat soldiers, earning the name “MonsterÃ¢â ¬Â• for committing acts of brutality and violence that repulsed even his fellow gang members. When the inevitable jail term confined him to a maximum-security cell, a complete political and personal transformation followed: from Monster to Sanyika Shakur, black nationalist, member of the New Afrikan Independence Movement, and crusader against the causes of gangsterism. In a document that has been compared to The Autobiography of Malcolm X and Eldridge CleaverÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Soul on Ice, Shakur makes palpable the despair and decay of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s inner cities and gives eloquent voice to one aspect of the black ghetto experience today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This dispatch from a maximum-security prison chronicles Scott’s transformation from a "gangbanging ghetto star" to an evangelical proponent of black nationalism. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Monster" Kody, today known as Sanyika Sakur, spent 16 years as a "gangbanger" in South Central Los Angeles. His account begins at age 11, when he was inducted into the ranks of the Crips, and ends (hundreds of bodies later) with Scott serving a seven-year prison term for beating a crack dealer. Throughout, he successfully conveys a sense of the siege mentality that prevails every minute of every day, due to the daily barrage of gang-on-gang violence. Names of derivative Crip gangs (e.g., Rollin' Sixties, Hoovers, Grape Street Watts Crips) and gang members (e.g., Li'l Hunchy, Tray Ball, Huckabuck) flit across the pages in a confusing manner, but Scott pushes the narrative forward with scarcely a glance backward, and, ultimately, names and incidents are not important. Unfortunately, Scott was in prison during the violence that followed last year's Rodney King incident and thus sheds little light on the peace treaty forged between the Bloods and Crips. Although unrepentant, Scott today is dedicated to ending gang violence. Recommended for most collections.- Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.
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Another look inside the Crips culture in Southern California. The Monster POV is that of a kid caught up in the lethal rivalries between Crips and Bloods, and more often, other sets of Crips. If you want an inside look-see at a life you'd never want to live and will find hard to believe takes place in America; well, eye opener. Monster was written years ago, and the gang culture has changed, from nightly drive-by shootings and turf wars, now more focus on "getting rich or die trying."

This was a pretty good read and insightful from this guys perspective. I know certain areas very well; Buddha Market, and the surrounding area.He seems recently, to have gone back some of the same mentality he left, but don't let that take away from content in the book. I've also heard from a member of the Rollin' 60's that the book is pretty accurate.

Part of class assigned reading. This book was used to demonstrate the mentality of gang members and the concepts of other-ring. After reading doing just a basic search showed the progress the author had made and showed more then likely the author is an unreliable narrator. On my own I do not think I would be as interested to pick up this book.

This book is excellently written and, because it was so interesting and really pulls you into a world completely unknown to most, I read it in one setting . Being a white, middle class, suburban male, I had no idea of what life in South Central L.A. was really like before reading this book. Sanyika

Shakur is a very intelligent, well spoken, New Afrikan, that not only gives you a realisitic look at the social inequalities, and horrible environment facing the New Afrikan population in South Central but also shows how these and other factors drive fine young men such as himself to lives of crime and unimaginable acts of violence. Not only is it a well written insightful social comentary but also a interesting autobiography that leads you through his personal growth from an eleven year old boy who wants nothing more than to be in a gang and to be infamous for his acts of violence, to a very intelligent, reasonable, though somewhat revolutionary, man. This book pulls you right in and you find yourself empathizing with the plite of the people as well as being very interested in the life of crime they are driven to as a result of it. I took a facination, perhaps a somewhat morbid one, in the gang activity and was facinated by the subculture of "sets" and slang that Shakur introduces his readers to. This is an excellently written book, very educational and very interesting. Even if you have no interest in the New Afrikan culture, or gangs, or prison, or social-economic factors discussed in this book it is still one of the most interesting autobiographies, if not books I have ever read, and is a must own.

It difficult to put into words how this book affected my state of mind, challenged things I "thought" I knew. Its sad Sanyika had to be born from a Monster in order to be transformed into something greater. No longer a criminal mind. Having read this book, and subsequently getting to know the author I am honored, and beyond impressed with what can take place in a mind, in a being. For the human spirit is ever enduring, and shall prevail in the face of adversity, strife and opposition. This is a HEAVY book. The faint of heart should not proceed and expect to see things the same old way you did before. I caution and encourage you to read this with an open mind and heart. You won’t regret it, this is raw, and real. Things I’ve seen for myself having spent time in L.A. It doesn’t get more honest than this. We can all come back from anything if we are willing to change for the better.

This is an excellent read for anyone wanting to know about the life of a gang member including their perceptions, reasoning and justification, and culture.I found this book to be one that I couldn’t put down. I’m sure Sanyika has had a strong impact on many youth out there.I had to give it 4/5 only because I felt some parts of the book were written with a little bit too much ego and sounded too self serving. However, I would strongly recommend this book to parents, teens and young adults.I felt it was an important story and one that never gets told from the inside perspective! Yes, the media may report on gang violence every once in a while but all they do is label and the public and media alike will never know the real story.This is one real story.

Great book, Sanyika illustrates gang life as it truly is...devoid of glamour as often portrayed in media. I feel that youth should read books such as these. To get a first hand look at street life. After reading this book, one should be highly discouraged to pursue such a life.

Great read

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