



Buck: A Memoir

By M.K. Asante

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A coming-of-age story about navigating the wilds of urban America and the shrapnel of a self-destructing family, *Buck* shares the story of a generation through one original and riveting voice. MK Asante was born in Zimbabwe to American parents: his mother a dancer, his father a revered professor. But as a teenager, MK was alone on the streets of North Philadelphia, swept up in a world of drugs, sex, and violence. MK's memoir is an unforgettable tale of how one precocious, confused kid educated himself through gangs, rap, mystic cults, ghetto philosophy, and, eventually, books. It is an inspiring tribute to the power of literature to heal and redeem us.

Praise for *Buck*

“A story of surviving and thriving with passion, compassion, wit, and style.”—**Maya Angelou**

“In America, we have a tradition of black writers whose autobiographies and memoirs come to define an era. . . . *Buck* may be this generation's story.”—**NPR**

“The voice of a new generation. . . . You will love nearly everything about *Buck*.”—**Essence**

“A virtuoso performance . . . [an] extraordinary page-turner of a memoir . . . written in a breathless, driving hip-hop prose style that gives it a tough, contemporary edge.”—**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

“Frequently brilliant and always engaging . . . It takes great skill to render the wide variety of characters, male and female, young and old, that populate a memoir like *Buck*. Asante [is] at his best when he sets out into the city of Philadelphia itself. In fact, that city is the true star of this book. Philly's skateboarders, its street-corner philosophers and its tattoo artists are all brought vividly to life here. . . . Asante's memoir will find an eager readership, especially among young people searching in books for the kind of understanding and meaning that eludes them in their real-life relationships. . . . A powerful and captivating book.”—**Hector Tobar, Los Angeles Times**

“Remarkable . . . Asante's prose is a fluid blend of vernacular swagger and tender poeticism. . . . [He] soaks up James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston and Walt Whitman like thirsty ground in a heavy rain. *Buck* grew from that, and it's a

bumper crop.”—*Salon*

“*Buck* is so honest it floats—even while it’s so down-to-earth that the reader feels like an ant peering up from the concrete. It’s a powerful book. . . . Asante is a hip-hop raconteur, a storyteller in the Homeric tradition, an American, a rhymers, a big-thinker singing a song of himself. You’ll want to listen.”—*The Buffalo News*

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Editorial Review

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Starred Review In this bruising memoir, author, filmmaker, and professor Asante recalls his troubled youth in Philadelphia, or, as he calls it, “Killadelphia, Pistolvania.” The story begins with Asante’s older brother, Uzi, being placed under arrest. Asante, nicknamed Malo and all of 12 at the time, looks up to Uzi, even as (especially as) he sees him carted away by the police. Uzi is more than a big brother, he says, “he’s my idol.” Malo is on the same path as Uzi. Worse, his father is absent and his mother has health issues. He hates the schools he attends where, invariably, he is told that his personality and attitude are “unacceptable.” As a last resort, he enrolls at an alternative school that is “perched on a hill and looks like a gingerbread house.” His classmates are misfits and outcasts with purple Mohawks, some wearing trench coats and ponytails, “looking like Columbine shooters.” And yet, it is here that he learns how to express himself in writing, and that changes his life. Interspersed with hip-hop lyrics by the likes of Tupac Shakur and Public Enemy, this is an inspiring story about perseverance and finding purpose that is sure to appeal to readers interested in hip-hop, black studies, and American pop culture in general. --June Sawyers

Review

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“The book’s strength lies in Asante’s vibrant, specific observations, and, at times, the percussive prose that captures them. The author’s fluid, filmic images of black urban life feel unique and disturbing.”—**Kirkus Reviews**

“Asante’s noir chronicle is imaginative, powerful, and electric, written with passion and conviction.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“This is an inspiring story about perseverance and finding purpose that is sure to appeal to readers interested in hip-hop, black studies, and American pop culture in general.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

“*Buck* takes the daily words of the American streets and forges something low and lovely. Angry, profane, and beautiful, it honors the best of hip-hop’s literary canon by producing a work worthy of inclusion.”—**Ta-Nehisi Coates**, author of *The Beautiful Struggle*

“*Buck* sings a song that will force all of America to face what it has become and remember what it could be.”—**Eddie Huang**, author of *Fresh off the Boat*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

MK Asante is an award-winning writer, filmmaker, hip-hop artist, and professor of creative writing and film at Morgan State University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elaine Kistler:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible Buck: A Memoir? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Darcie Hartman:

The reason why? Because this Buck: A Memoir is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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