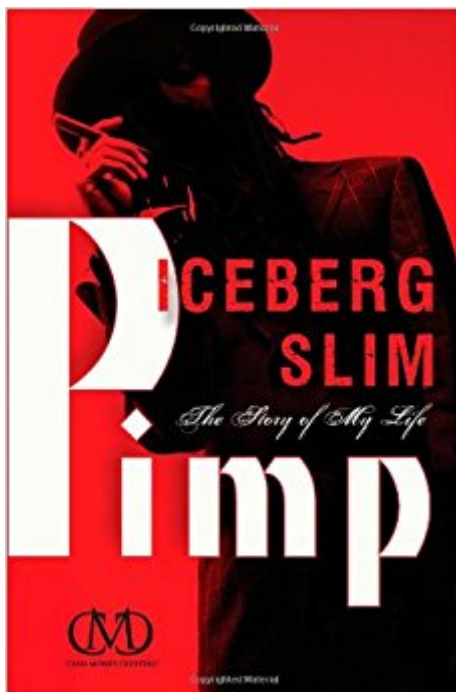


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# Pimp: The Story Of My Life



## Synopsis

Before Hip Hop, there was the pimp. The book that brought black literature to the streets is back to show the Hip Hop generation what it's all about, where they came from. By telling the story of one man's struggles and triumphs in an underground world, this book shows the game doesn't change - it just has a different swagger. Iceberg Slim's story is now depicted in a major motion picture distributed worldwide. Iceberg Slim: Portrait of a Pimp shows Slim's transformation from pimp to the author of 7 classic books. As real as you can get without jumping in, this is the story of Slim's life as he saw, felt, tasted, and smelled it. Only he could tell this story and make the reader feel it. If you thought Hustle & Flow was the true pimp story, this book is where it all began. This is the heyday of the pimp, the hard-won pride and glory, small though it may be; the beginnings of pimp before it was dragged in front of the camera, before pimp juice and pimp style. A trip through hell by one man who lived to tell the tale. The dangers of jail, addiction and death that are still all too familiar for today's black community. Though it is a tale of his times, it will remain current and true for as long as there is a race bias, as long as there is a street life, as long as there is exploitation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Slim belongs to the knuckle-duster-in-the-face school of storytelling. \* Sunday Times \* Slim always told it as it was, without compromise. -- Irvine Welsh Pimp is hot and frantic, a remarkable tour de force of carnality and violence. \* The Times \* Iceberg Slim does for the pimp what Jean Genet did

for the thief. \* Washington Post \* Pimp is an eye-boggling netherworld documentary, a tear-arse tale of ferocious emotion, expressed through action. \* Q magazine \* Iceberg Slim always kept it real. It is blatant, uncompromising, and as close to the truth as you can get without going there yourself. -- Ice T This brutally honest memoir...is as shocking today as ever. A precursor of 40 years of black-street culture, this is uncompromising and harrowing, but a landmark book nonetheless. \* Big Issue \*  
--This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Iceberg Slim, aka Robert Beck, was born in Chicago in 1918 and was initiated into the life of the pimp at age eighteen. He briefly attended the Tuskegee Institute but dropped out to return to the streets of the South Side, where he remained, pimping until he was forty-two. After several stints in jail, culminating in a ten month stay in Cook County, he decided to give up the life and turned to writing. With a family to feed, Slim folded his life into the pages of Pimp, which emerged as a definitive chronicle of street life. Slim was catapulted into the public eye as a new American hero, known for speaking the truth whether that truth was ugly, sexy, rude or blunt. He published six more books based on his life and different aspects of the ghetto black, pimp community. Slim died at age 73 in 1992; one day before the Los Angeles riots.

This is an exciting book that provides a authentic ( it would seem) look into the seedy underside of a shadowy segment of America post World War II. Iceberg Slim was a big time pimp who experienced the peaks and many valleys of a life devoted to hustling and avoiding the " square life". Afternoon a number of "bits" in a range of correctional facilities he comes to realization he has wasted his life and goes straight in time to reconnect with his mother and find a wife and family to keep his redemptive life style on tract. This guy makes the language do things you did not think possible. He makes good use of underworld and black slang but goes further in using combinations of words tableau off the page and puts you in the middle of the action. This is a powerful book that not only provides insight into the sordid world of prostitution but also the anguish and pain arising from America's racial divide.

It had been literally months since I last read a full book and "Pimp" has rekindled my passion for prose. The content of the story is deeply disturbing yet delivered with a linguistic swagger that keeps the reader enthralled and oftentimes in awe. It is a glimpse into the psyche of not only a mid-century American pimp, but the identity of urban African Americans through the lens of "the street". The detailed journey, which is recalled from the depression through the late 1950's gives the reader a

startling insight into the thought process of a young adult yearning to realize underworld ambitions. The lengths the author goes to in order to grasp this dream and the depths to which he sinks are sometimes astonishing but more frequently sickening. He is acutely aware of the immorality of his profession yet vehemently pursues it with icy selfish indifference. This is not simply a stylistically groundbreaking book about some pimp. It is a commentary on the state and the plight of the African American struggling to find a place in the burgeoning post-war era of American history.

Iceberg Slim was very candid as he told the interesting story of his life. He definitely had game but, for the life of me I just can't understand how a woman would sell herself and give a man all of the scratch. The book was a decent read for me it just wasn't what I was looking for. Some of the old-school slang was a bit much for me, at times I felt like I needed an interpreter. LOL Once I got into the book it wasn't that bad. I might even read another one of his books now that I know the meaning of those old-school words. EyeCU Read!

This is difficult to rate because this very well written autobiography pulls no punches about the horror of the world of and around a big city pimp. Though set in the late 1930's and 1940's it is unfortunately valid today. The brutality, the misogyny, the greed, the corruption, and most paramount, the racial hatreds pervade every chapter. According to a recently published biography of the author, the autobiography is largely true and "Iceberg Slim" really did have an I.Q. of 150+. I do have one caveat: This book is not for the squeamish or easily offended. Jack Kaouac and Henry Miller are prep school for this "college" work. And writers such as James Baldwin present a very tame portrait of the Black experience of the period. Nevertheless, I heartily recommend this work. It is a gem of literature and likely the best written probe ever of such a grotesque reality.

Iceberg's shocking recount of his life as a pimp and addict allowed me to see the ugly dirty struggles of life in the underworld of crime, hustling, the sex trade and exploitation of women, and willing, consensual voluntarily choosing to become a slave in an effort to survive, belong and feel loved, and valued as a successful whore/ pimp/ thief/ con... I walked the seedy, dangerous streets of crime in the inner cities and experienced serving a prison sentence in a filthy dangerous prison safely in the comfort of my home because Iceberg had the audacity and skill to transport me there. This is an enlarged thriller told excellently that captivates the reader to desire to keep turning the pages desiring to finish the transporting story in one sitting. Loved it!

I finished! That may not seem like much of a feat for some, but I assure you, it is for me. I was very intrigued by the life story of Iceberg but the slang was too much for me. I found myself often times confused by the language the author used. I had to rely on context clues through most of the book. I have a couple favorite terms that I'm sure I'll be using though: "Runt" and "scratch". Regardless, nobody can say this book was boring though. Knowing that he only had to draw from memory and not imagination is awesome. Wish I could say I'm looking forward to another read from Iceberg, but I'd be Georgia-ing you! EyeCU Read

We think of gangsta rap and its ilk as a new phenomena in music but this story of Iceberg Slim's pimping in the 1930s shows us it's been there in some cities for a long time. I read this book after reading a NY Times review of the recent bio of Iceberg Slim which described this book (marketed as fiction) as largely autobiographical

Behold, the birth of hip hop culture in this amazing story. Though its sad that using pimp game is so effective on women this story gives a great description of it in practice. Just when you think the author is glorifying the pimp lifestyle he condemns it for what it is; cruel and brutally effective on the modern, damaged woman.

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