



From Pieces to Weight: Once Upon a Time in Southside Queens

By 50 Cent

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In the *New York Times* bestseller *From Pieces to Weight*, rap mogul 50 Cent, lifts the veil on his complicated life, from the murder of his mother when he was twelve, to hustling on the streets; from the assassination attempt that nearly finished him to his meteoric rise to the top of hip hop royalty.

This violent and introspective memoir reveals not only 50 Cent's story but also the story of a generation of youth faced with hard choices and very few options. It is a tale of sacrifice, transformation, and redemption, but also one of hope, determination, and the power of self. Told in 50's unique voice, the narrative drips with the raw insight, street wisdom, and his struggle to survive at all costs - and behold the riches of the American Dream.

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From Pieces to Weight: Once Upon a Time in Southside Queens By 50 Cent Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #81921 in Books
- Brand: Brand: MTV Books
- Published on: 2006-08-15
- Released on: 2006-08-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .61 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The rap superstar known as 50 Cent was born Curtis James Jackson III in 1976. His mother, a smalltime drug dealer, was murdered when he was eight, but that didn't stop him from pursuing her profession. 50 Cent is unflinchingly honest about his mother, his drug past and just about everything else in this raw, literate memoir chronicling his rise from Jamaica, Queens, to the top of the Billboard charts. In his neighborhood, recalls 50 Cent, the only people with money were the drug dealers: "They were my role models." By 11, he'd made his first sale. Over the next decade, 50 Cent evolved from a hustler selling capsules of crack cocaine ("pieces") to a kingpin purchasing by the kilo ("weight"). With money came girls, clothes, cars—and trouble. 50 Cent describes spraying bullets at rivals, outrunning police on his motorcycle and waking up to a drug raid on his house. He avoided jail by serving time in a boot camp-style incarceration center, which did nothing but turn him into a "stronger, meaner, and more focused criminal." His big break into music came through a chance meeting with Jam Master Jay (of Run-DMC). Yet even while trying to break into the business, 50 Cent couldn't leave his past behind, wearing bulletproof vests to meetings with record executives and slipping back into the drug trade when his career didn't take off immediately. Fans will discover the origins of 50 Cent's famous feud with Ja Rule; they'll also get more details about the notorious 2000 shooting that left him with nine bullet holes in his body. Opinionated, unrepentant and unabashedly self-promoting, 50 Cent's memoir celebrates the rapper's peculiar brand of the American Dream (and the title of his breakthrough album): *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*.

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Review

"Cool, hard, and vivid, a minor classic of a genre you might call gangster rap noir. No fluff here. 50 Cent tells the story of his life...with a novelist's economy."

-- *The New York Times*

"50 Cent is unflinchingly honest...in this raw, literate memoir.... Opinionated, unrepentant, and unabashedly self-promoting, *[From Pieces to Weight]* celebrates the rapper's peculiar brand of the American Dream."

-- *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"A gripping read."

-- *Time Out New York*

About the Author

50 Cent is a record-breaking rap recording artist, entrepreneur, music producer, and actor. His debut album, *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*, sold more than 12 million units worldwide, is certified eight times platinum, and was the basis for the semi-autobiographical film of the same title, in which he starred. He is the first artist to have four songs in the top ten of Billboard's Hot 100 since the Beatles in 1964, and in 2012 he released his fifth studio album. He published his memoir, the *New York Times* bestseller *From Pieces to Weight*, which was hailed as "cool, hard, and vivid, a minor classic of gangster rap noir" (*The New York Times*). Under the G-Unit brand, his business empire includes a record label, apparel and footwear ventures, vitamin water, and more. He also created the nonprofit organization The G-Unity Foundation, which aims to better the life of urban youth. Learn more at 50cent.com.

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