

This Jawn Right Here Called Street Lit

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This jawn, street lit, is story:

... stories that come from real lives lived on avenues, sidewalks, and corners interwoven, intersecting, and connected as crossroads on the stage of life,

... stories about human beings who walk, talk, and think, laugh, cry, and drink, fight, make love and raise kids, sometimes right on stoops and porches under the stars of night,

... stories about communities where money can be seemingly scarce or - found flowing underground a mainstream economy...as above, so below.

This jawn, street lit, is truth:

... truths remembered and told creatively, realistically, authentically, uncompromisingly, and unapologetically ... because street lit fictions are necessary,

... truths for the thick-boned and thick-skinned ... told in everyday language by everyday writers, thinkers, dreamers, ex-cons and wifeys with voices screaming to be heard...and so - they scream,

... truths readers read, and see, and hear, and feel, and listen to in libraries, in schools, and passed hand-to-hand like contrabanded literary combat in the street, broadsides now code.

This jawn, street lit, is audacious:

... for people from the hood who document stories as an expression of the spectrum of life as it is lived, everywhere,

... for authors to read their own lives and then to write that shit out from the abyss of melanated imaginations...morphing reality into memory so it doesn't have to be lived or survived anymore,

... for readers to see their lives reflected in story, as they gasp, laugh, ooo, and ahhh, shucks ... as readers breathe ... while heightening their literacy practices by osmosis, the act of reading realized.

This jawn, street lit, is magical:

... for authors of hip hop who create literature as life in text,

... for scholars of hip hop who arrive at the revelation, "I think they call that jawn "genre,"

... and, for all of us, the practitioners of hip hop, readers of the stories of life.

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