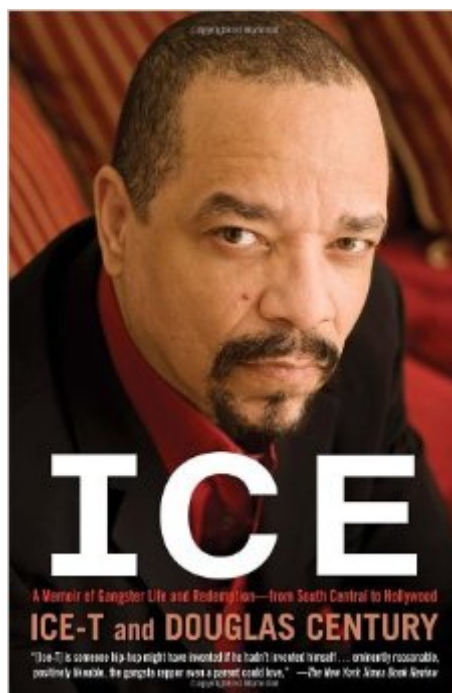


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# Ice: A Memoir Of Gangster Life And Redemption—from South Central To Hollywood



## Synopsis

He's a hip-hop icon credited with single-handedly creating gangsta rap. Television viewers know him as Detective Odafin Tutuola on the top-rated drama *Law & Order: SVU*. But where the hype and the headlines end, the real story of Ice-T—the one few of his millions of fans have ever heard—truly begins. Ice is Ice-T in his own words—raw, uncensored, and unafraid to speak his mind. About his orphan upbringing on the gang-infested streets of South Central, his four-year stint in the U.S. Army, his successful career as a hustler and thief, and his fateful decision to turn away from a life of crime and forge his own path to international stardom. Along the way, Ice shares never-before-told stories about friends such as Tupac, Dick Wolf, Chris Rock, and Flavor Flav, among others. And he offers up candid observations on marriage and monogamy, the current state of hip-hop, and his latest passion: mentoring at-risk youths around the country. With insights into the cutthroat world of the street—and the cutthroat world of Hollywood—Ice is the unforgettable story of a true American original.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm probably one of the few people that have read and reviewed Ice's other book *The Ice Opinion* as well as this new book, which is equally informing and true as the previous. Being honest, after having read that book a few years back, the thought occurred to me to ask: "what more could this man say that he hasn't already spoke about?" Let me just clear the table and confirm that nothing in these two books is material that's been repeated or regurgitated. Without doubt, this is a solid and

eye-opening read. First, you might not know that Ice was an Army Ranger and an incredibly solid and dedicated soldier while he was doing his time in service. Yes, he did end up having to stand up in front of the C.O., but who hasn't? Legendary Marine, Chesty Puller once said that "the best soldiers are often found in the brig." In Ice's case, he wasn't kidding. Ice never got involved in drugs or alcohol and never squealed on anyone either. In historical and mythical terms, he's a pretty honorable character, but the reality that you come away with from reading this book, is that Ice is anything but a character, he's a real person with his survival instincts ratcheted up on high. Ice, born Tracy Marrow, is probably the best example of social darwinism that I've ever heard about. Working your way up from the bottom, parentless, financially 'out', being bussed from one social tier to another for school, trapped in a warring culture on the brink of a social apocalypse -- you name it. "Just hold your ground and be true to yourself." That's his message and he has the life behind him to prove it. Hmm. Who also said that, about 400 years ago? I wonder. "To thine own self ...

I'm writing this review as a casual fan of Ice-T. I was 12 years old when O.G. came out, and I had to sneak a copy of a friend's cassette tape home and listen to it when my parents weren't around so they wouldn't take it away. Around the same time, New Jack City came out and, again, I had to sneak into a theater with a friend to watch it. I was enthralled with Ice-T, though I had no real knowledge of him other than this limited exposure. Since that time, Ice-T has become a widely recognizable media figure and, in many ways, a father figure to a lot of contemporary rap. What I truly enjoy about Ice-T now, though, is his personality. No doubt in part due to his rap career, he has a very clever yet direct way of putting things, whether he's talking about women's hair (see Good Hair) or lamenting the state of the music industry (see his YouTube criticism of Soulja Boy). It's really this aspect of Ice-T that made me interested in reading his autobiography. I really appreciate how Ice-T's personality comes through in this book. I was concerned that it could be ghostwritten into banality, but that is definitely not the case. There's a ton of great stuff here for anyone else who appreciates Ice-T's humor and wit. This book is also very honest--Ice-T goes into a lot of detail about his childhood and how his family and surroundings affected him growing up. As a child, he found that he and his mother could both pass as white, which allowed him to outwardly fit in in his suburban neighborhood even though he was obviously very cognizant of the differences between him and the other kids. Once his parents both died while he was young, he was transplanted to Los Angeles, where it's also clear that he was a bit of an outsider, even if he superficially fit in.

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