



Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.

By Cheo Hodari Coker

Download now

Read Online →

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker

In this riveting account of Biggie's remarkable life, hip hop journalist Cheo Hodari Coker tells the story you've never heard about the dramatic, tension-filled world of Biggie, Tupac, Puff Daddy, and Suge Knight, tracing their friendships and feuds from the beginning to the bitter end. Despite the clash of personalities and styles, all four were key players in a volatile and creative era of hip hop, a time when gangsta rap became popular music.

Before he rocketed to fame as Biggie, Christopher Wallace was a young black man growing up in Brooklyn with a loving single mother. An honors student who dropped out of school to sell drugs, Biggie soon discovered that he had a gift for rocking the mike. Coker's narrative is based on exclusive interviews with Biggie's family and friends, some of whom have never spoken publicly about Biggie before.

Compellingly written and brilliantly illustrated, with rare color and black-and-white photographs from VIBE's archives and Biggie's family, this is an in-depth look at the life and afterlife of an icon whose music is as powerful and prevalent as ever. A virtuoso of flow as well as a master storyteller, Biggie was arguably the greatest rapper of all time. We've heard a lot of speculation about Biggie's death. Now it's time to remember his life and celebrate his work.

↓ [Download Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of th ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of ...pdf](#)

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.

By Cheo Hodari Coker

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker

In this riveting account of Biggie's remarkable life, hip hop journalist Cheo Hodari Coker tells the story you've never heard about the dramatic, tension-filled world of Biggie, Tupac, Puff Daddy, and Suge Knight, tracing their friendships and feuds from the beginning to the bitter end. Despite the clash of personalities and styles, all four were key players in a volatile and creative era of hip hop, a time when gangsta rap became popular music.

Before he rocketed to fame as Biggie, Christopher Wallace was a young black man growing up in Brooklyn with a loving single mother. An honors student who dropped out of school to sell drugs, Biggie soon discovered that he had a gift for rocking the mike. Coker's narrative is based on exclusive interviews with Biggie's family and friends, some of whom have never spoken publicly about Biggie before.

Compellingly written and brilliantly illustrated, with rare color and black-and-white photographs from VIBE's archives and Biggie's family, this is an in-depth look at the life and afterlife of an icon whose music is as powerful and prevalent as ever. A virtuoso of flow as well as a master storyteller, Biggie was arguably the greatest rapper of all time. We've heard a lot of speculation about Biggie's death. Now it's time to remember his life and celebrate his work.

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #529614 in Books
- Published on: 2013-03-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x .80" w x 6.80" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 300 pages

 [Download Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of th ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.** By Cheo Hodari Coker

Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

From the same people who brought you *vibe* magazine's *New York Times* bestseller **tupac shakur** comes the other half of the story that rocked the world: **unbelievable**, the larger-than-life biography of Christopher Wallace, a.k.a. Biggie Smalls, a.k.a. The Notorious B.I.G.

In this riveting account of Biggie's remarkable life, hip hop journalist Cheo Hodari Coker tells the story you've never heard about the dramatic, tension-filled world of Biggie, Tupac, Puff Daddy, and Suge Knight, tracing their friendships and feuds from the beginning to the bitter end. Despite the clash of personalities and styles, all four were key players in a volatile and creative era of hip hop, a time when gangsta rap became popular music.

Before he rocketed to fame as Biggie, Christopher Wallace was a young black man growing up in Brooklyn with a loving single mother. An honors student who dropped out of school to sell drugs, Biggie soon discovered that he had a gift for rocking the mike. Coker's narrative is based on exclusive interviews with Biggie's family and friends, some of whom have never spoken publicly about Biggie before.

Compellingly written and brilliantly illustrated, with rare color and black-and-white photographs from VIBE's archives and Biggie's family, this is an in-depth look at the life and afterlife of an icon whose music is as powerful and prevalent as ever. A virtuoso of flow as well as a master storyteller, Biggie was arguably the greatest rapper of all time. We've heard a lot of speculation about Biggie's death. Now it's time to remember his life and celebrate his work.

About the Author

CHEO HODARI COKER: CHEO HODARI COKER, 28, is an award-winning music journalist and freelance screenwriter. Coker has written cover stories, major features, and reviews for VIBE, the Los Angeles Times, Premiere, Essence, Details, The Face, Spin, Rolling Stone, The Source, XXL, Rap Pages, and the Village Voice.

Coker began writing for The Source, VIBE, and Essence, while still enrolled at Stanford University, where he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in English in January 1995. Soon afterward, he moved to Los Angeles to work as a writer/producer for the short-lived MTV News movie segment program "MTV Screening Room". He left MTV in May 1995 to pursue his freelance journalism career, soon finding a home at the Los Angeles Times by September of that year.

Over the next two years, Coker became the paper's resident expert on R&B and Hip Hop. In 1997, Coker was named Second Place Winner in the competition for Music Journalist of the Year at the Third Annual Music Journalism Awards.

1997 was also the year Coker wrote the VIBE cover story "Chronicle of a Death Foretold," published shortly after the murder of the Notorious B.I.G. This article contained excerpts the Notorious B.I.G.'s last full-length interview. Coker was a featured expert in the VH1 Behind the Music episode devoted to Biggie, as well as in episodes about NWA and other rap legends.

Coker also wrote the chapter on NWA in the VIBE History of Hip Hop.

Coker left the Times in September 1997 to co-write the hip-hop thriller "Flow" with Richard (Uptown Saturday Night) Wesley, which was purchased by New Line Cinema for John (Boyz N' The Hood) Singleton to produce and direct.

Other recent screenplays include "Living For The City: The Marion Barry Story" for HBO, "When I Get Free: The Life and Times of Tupac Amaru Shakur" for MTV and the feature film "Legend: A Bob Marley Story" for Warner Bros. Coker also wrote, executive produced and created the animated horror series "The Devil's Music" for www.urbanentertainment.com.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

The first time she saw the Manhattan skyline in all its splendor, Voletta Wallace gasped in awe. Miracles of glass and steel, the buildings reached upward to heights that seemed to taunt God. Nothing in Jamaica, not even the pictures she'd seen in magazines before she emigrated could have prepared her for the sheer enormity of New York City.

"There must be a lot of religious people around here," Wallace remarked to a Caribbean friend, looking out on the Bronx from a subway car soon after her arrival. "Why do you say that?" he replied. The only brick buildings she remembered in the bucolic coastal town where she grew up were places of worship, so naturally she assumed that these towers must be chapels. Her recently Americanized friend laughed.

"Those aren't chapels," he told her. "Those are apartment buildings. People live in them."

The year was 1966. Wallace's island home of Jamaica had achieved independence from British rule four years earlier, and the economy was already dangerously anemic. There was a widening disparity between rich and poor, increasing strife between political parties, and problems with everything from road maintenance to the educational system. Many Jamaicans were leaving the island for better opportunities elsewhere. Thousands went to England and Canada. But a small minority moved to another land that had once suffered under Britain's heavy-handed absentee rule: America.

Her Majesty's dreary cobblestone streets never held much appeal for Voletta Wallace. "I never saw a happy England," she explained. Her cousin Ethel had left for London years before, and had always wanted her to come visit. But Voletta never had any desire to go. America was different. She'd seen photographs of its beautiful mountain vistas and wide-open prairies. She'd heard about the abundant opportunities, the rags-to-riches success stories, the political freedom, and the fine universities. All the little bits of legend that made up the American dream appealed to her imagination. The U.S.A. sounded like the Promised Land.

The fourth of nine children, Voletta Wallace was born into a solid landowning family in the rural parish of Trelawny on Jamaica's north coast. Her mother ran the household while her father worked as a butcher. Unlike so many others on the island, she never lacked for food, clothes, or shelter. Comfortable but by no means rich, the Wallace family taught Voletta that hard work, thrift, and religious piety were the cornerstones of a happy life. She attended church every Sunday, and spent most of her free time reading books and fashion magazines, never visiting the rowdy dancehalls where other girls her age were dancing to ska, drinking, and getting pregnant.

While she was never one to rebel, Wallace realized that the last thing she wanted was to be married off as a

teenager, exchanging her father's firm hand for that of a husband. She longed to see the world, to further her education, and to determine her own course in life.

At 17, she left Trelawny for Kingston, finding a job in Jamaica's bustling capital as a switchboard operator. But she still felt unfulfilled. The city was so crowded, and oftentimes dangerous, she couldn't see much of a future for herself there. By the time she was 19, Voletta Wallace decided it was time to make moves.

A postcard arrived in the mail one day from the Jules Jorgenson House of Fashion that sealed her fate. Her name was on the list because she had once purchased a watch through their mail order catalog. A friend saw the card and said it looked so official that she could probably convince the people at the American embassy she was a model traveling to New York for a fashion show. With her looks, why not? She was a beautiful young woman: 5-foot-3 and 98 pounds with long flowing hair and a slim, shapely figure. She put on her best American-made dress and went to the U.S. embassy in Kingston.

She told them she was a designer, and she needed a visa to go check out the fall collections in person.

"Most of my clothes come from the United States," Wallace told the interviewer, clipping her words with just the right amount of fashionista attitude. "I usually send for my clothes through a friend who goes to New York, but they always come back damaged, so I would like to go there and select my clothes myself."

"You want to make your complaints?" he asked.

"I made my complaints already," Wallace said curtly, cutting him short. "I just want to go up there to select my clothes."

He looked at her, then looked at the card. "The Jules Jorgenson House of Fashion cordially invites you . . ." The bluff worked. Voletta Wallace was granted a 14-day visa to do her shopping. She flew up to New York, applied for an extension, and never looked back.

And so began her adventure in New York, like countless other Caribbean people before her. She started out in the Bronx, and eventually settled in the New Lots section of Brooklyn. She worked day and night, using whatever spare time she had to pursue her high school equivalency. "In Jamaica, you don't have the money to send your child for higher education," she said. "I put a great value on education when I came here." The first time she took the test she failed by one point, which only made her more determined. "What am I gonna do?" she asked herself. "Cry?" Instead, the future educator resolved to "just read, read, read." The second time around, she passed the test.

Despite her triumph, life in New York was losing its luster. Wallace took a job answering phones in a psychiatrist's office, and the surroundings were making her crazy. Though the city was pretty by night, the morning light revealed a harsh reality. One day she looked out her window and said to herself "Is this the beauty I wanted to come here for?" Wallace hadn't fully appreciated the misty mountains and lush tropical climate of her birthplace until her first experience with soot-colored snow. "New York was filthy," she said. "The houses were ugly. And the people were rude." It was the general lack of respect that bothered her more than anything else. "My first shock was hearing a man use profanity toward a police officer," she recalled. "In Jamaica, that man would have been arrested and shot. But this man here was cursing out a police officer, and the officer just stepped back. I said, 'Huh?' "

Voletta Wallace was distraught. Disappointed. "I felt like I was a swan amongst featherless fowls," she said.

She decided to try and make the best of her situation. She wasn't going to sit and sulk at home just because she didn't like her initial impression of the city. "I prayed and prayed and prayed for New York to grow on me," she said. She was determined to better herself, to achieve her dreams of self-reliance. She enrolled at Queens College where she studied nursing and worked as a home health aid. But she quickly realized that nursing wasn't for her. "I couldn't stand the sight of blood," she said. "I couldn't stand the pressure and the sickness and all that." She transferred to Brooklyn College and began taking courses in early childhood education, moving closer to what would become her true calling.

And then in 1970, four years after arriving in the States, she met another expatriate "swan" who helped make her adjustment a little bit easier.

Tall, broad-shouldered, with kind eyes and an easy smile, George Letore had natural charisma. A welder by trade, he was also Jamaican, having emigrated to London years before relocating to New York. It didn't matter to Voletta Wallace that he was more than two decades her senior. She thought she was in love. She delighted in the man with the quick sense of humor who was twice her size and treated her like a little girl. "To be very honest, I can't say, 'Oh, my very first impression was love at first sight,' " Wallace said. "I like older men. For some reason, all my life, I have always dated older men."

She soon became pregnant. It should have been joyous news, but there was only one problem-Letore had neglected to mention that he had a wife and family waiting for him back in London. Although she knew there was a good chance he wouldn't be around, Wallace made up her mind to be empowered instead of feeling abandoned. She had feelings for Letore, but they didn't compare to the love she felt for the new life that was kicking inside her belly. On May 21, 1972, at Saint Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, Christopher George Letore Wallace was born.

He was a big healthy baby-eight pounds-and labor was difficult for the petite mom-to-be. The child had to be delivered by cesarean section. The last thing she remembered before the anesthesia was a nurse saying, "Doctor, it's 10:21." "Next thing she knew it was 5 a.m. and another nurse was telling her, "Mother, you have a baby boy.' "

Of course it was love at first sight. "After my son was born I found out that what I felt for George was not love, because I loved my son," she said. "This was love," she added, folding her arms as if she were holding the boy with the soft tuft of hair on top of his head again for the first time. "You know, this little thing right here, in my hands, that's love. Out there"-she said, dismissively waving her hand-"I don't love you. I was too focused on this little innocent right here in my hands. So I gave this person all my love, and I guess his father realized, like, 'Damn, can I get just a little bit of that?' But I couldn't give him any," Wallace said. "It was like, 'You go your way, and I'll stay with this little critter here.' And we just made life on our own." Eleven days after his birth, Ms. Wallace took her son to the place that he would call home for the next 20 years, apartment 3L in 226 St. James Place, betwee...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Calvin Baker:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you

receive the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. as the daily resource information.

Lizabeth Melgar:

The guide with title Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. has lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. That book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you inside new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

John Edwards:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read will be Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G..

Jeffrey Messina:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you might have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. This specific Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. can give you a lot of friends because by you looking at this one book you have thing that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This publication offer you information that probably your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than some other make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? We need to have Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G..

Download and Read Online Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker
#6IRE5TS7B3A

Read Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker for online ebook

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker books to read online.

Online Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker ebook PDF download

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker Doc

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker Mobipocket

Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G. By Cheo Hodari Coker EPub