



Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader

By Greg Tate

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Since launching his career at the *Village Voice* in the early 1980s Greg Tate has been one of the premiere critical voices on contemporary Black music, art, literature, film, and politics. *Flyboy 2* provides a panoramic view of the past thirty years of Tate's influential work. Whether interviewing Miles Davis or Ice Cube, reviewing an Azealia Banks mixtape or Suzan-Lori Parks's *Topdog/Underdog*, discussing visual artist Kara Walker or writer Clarence Major, or analyzing the ties between Afro-futurism, Black feminism, and social movements, Tate's resounding critical insights illustrate how race, gender, and class become manifest in American popular culture. Above all, Tate demonstrates through his signature mix of vernacular poetics and cultural theory and criticism why visionary Black artists, intellectuals, aesthetics, philosophies, and politics matter to twenty-first-century America.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Gathered here we have a body of work a generation in the making that will certainly shape our thinking, listening, and seeing for generations to come. Greg Tate is the standard-bearer; his critical sensibilities are matched only by his ability to render them in stunning prose. The power and charisma of his intellect emanate from the page. In the tradition of Ellison and Baraka, but unlike them, shaped by the best of Black feminism, Tate forges his own brilliant path."

(Farah Jasmine Griffin)

"The premier hip-hop writer of his generation, a stunning prose stylist, and the inventor of a whole new approach to music and cultural criticism, Greg Tate has been to hip-hop what Albert Murray is to jazz: the standard-setter for a generation of intellectuals who care deeply about race, art, and the future."

(Ann Powers)

"Tate has been an important if underread critic for the past several decades, and this collection will allow more readers to discover him. Not a fast or simple read, but a worthwhile one for fans of music and culture."

(Craig L. Shufelt *Library Journal* 2016-07-01)

"*Flyboy 2* will be like no other collection of writing you will read this year, and probably this decade. Refer back to the original *Flyboy* book to whet your palate, and to note and compare the evolution of Tate's voice and his perception of the world and music around him. Take comfort in knowing that there is a Black writer who has no choice but to be real, poised and dignified, denying all pressures to bastardize the class and power of Black arts criticism and literary excellence."

(Jordannah Elizabeth *Amsterdam News* 2016-08-11)

"Whether you are new to his work or a longtime reader, the universe of Black magic lovingly curated in *Flyboy 2* will do your soul good."

(Steven W. Thrasher *The Guardian* 2016-08-20)

"*Flyboy 2* is an immersive, fluid, and genre-bending collection of commentary, essays, and exposition of the self, a beautiful text solidly grounded in the critical theories of late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century academia."

(Patty Comeau *ForeWord Reviews* 2016-08-26)

"What *Flyboy 1* and *2* show is that Tate has come a long way in the study of this, the feared black planet and, in so doing, came out a more skilful, more humble man. What his style won't let me forget is this: we are simultaneously in command of this world, and others."

(Kwanele Sosibo *Mail & Guardian* 2016-09-07)

"What made Tate's criticism special was his ability to theorize outward from his encounters with genius and his brushes with banality—to telescope between moments of artistic inspiration and the giant structures within which those moments were produced. . . . Tate has a keen sense for the way that both artists and communities discern where they fit in the world, and what is expected of them, and then either go along for the ride or carefully plot their escapes."

(Hua Hsu *The New Yorker* 2016-09-21)

"[T]hought-provoking. . . . There's lots to unpack in Tate's writing, challenging us to come along for the ride—if we're up to it."

(David Hershkovits *Paper Magazine* 2016-11-04)

"A *Rolling Stone* contributor, Greg Tate's ferocious, slang-tinged salvos and deep-rooted historical analysis have inspired readers and intimidated colleagues for decades. This sequel to the 1992 collection *Flyboy in the Buttermilk* felt particularly acute in the context of 2016's nonstop stream of racial horror, whether Tate is delineating visual artist Kara Walker's unflinching slavery-era silhouettes or eulogizing Richard Pryor and Michael Jackson. . . ."

(Michaelangelo Matos *Rolling Stone* 2016-12-21)

"Greg Tate has been responsible for some of the most erudite and energetic cultural criticism of the past thirty years. . . . The book stands as a testimony to the richness and variety of contemporary Black artistic production, and to Tate's restless curiosity and learning."

(Michael Lapointe *TLS* 2017-03-03)

About the Author

Greg Tate is a music and popular culture critic and journalist whose work has appeared in many publications, including the *Village Voice*, *Vibe*, *Spin*, the *Wire*, and *Downbeat*. He is the author of *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America* and *Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and the Black Experience* and the editor of *Everything but the Burden: What White People Are Taking from Black Culture*. Tate, via guitar and baton, also leads the conducted improvisation ensemble Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber, who tour internationally.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Britton:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader had been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The book Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to become your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with all the book Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader. You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Arturo Lamb:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the information about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try

to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader.

Wanda Riddle:

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to learn a book. When you study a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader will give you new experience in examining a book.

Timothy Wrobel:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our information for everything. By a guide we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader was filled regarding science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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