



## These Are The Breaks

*Idris Goodwin*

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## **These Are The Breaks** Idris Goodwin

These Are The Breaks is the debut essay collection of NEA award-winning playwright, HBO Def Poet, and critically acclaimed "indie" rapper, Idris Goodwin. Diverse in scope and wickedly satirical, Goodwin's poetic essays sample race, class, and culture, transcending the page with hip-hop musicality. A rhythmic blend of biting wit and break-beat poetry, Goodwin's prose pulses with purpose. Remixing broken dreams and distorted legacies, Goodwin cross-fades past and present, personal and political: Motown's last vinyl factory juxtaposes against Bronx rap legends battling in open-air arenas; Chicago's Public School system contrasts against Santa Fe's tourism industry; an Egyptian child drowns in the Dead Sea as Nat Turner sprints across Death Valley. These Are The Breaks is the literary mixtape of our cacophonous times. These Are The Breaks creates a new literature entirely fresh, authentic and important. Essays from one of hip-hop's deftest public intellectuals contributing to the fields of prose, creative memoir, race theory, and music history. -Kevin Coval, "Slingshots (A Hip-Hop Poetica) Street smart, culturally sophisticated, ironic, and iconoclastic Idris Goodwin is one of the most talented and multifaceted young artists working today. His work, like the best art practices, helps us to see what we thought was obvious in a new and different way. - Calvin Forbes, "The Shine Poems," (A) refreshing... powerful and down-to-earth voice. -National Public Radio

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