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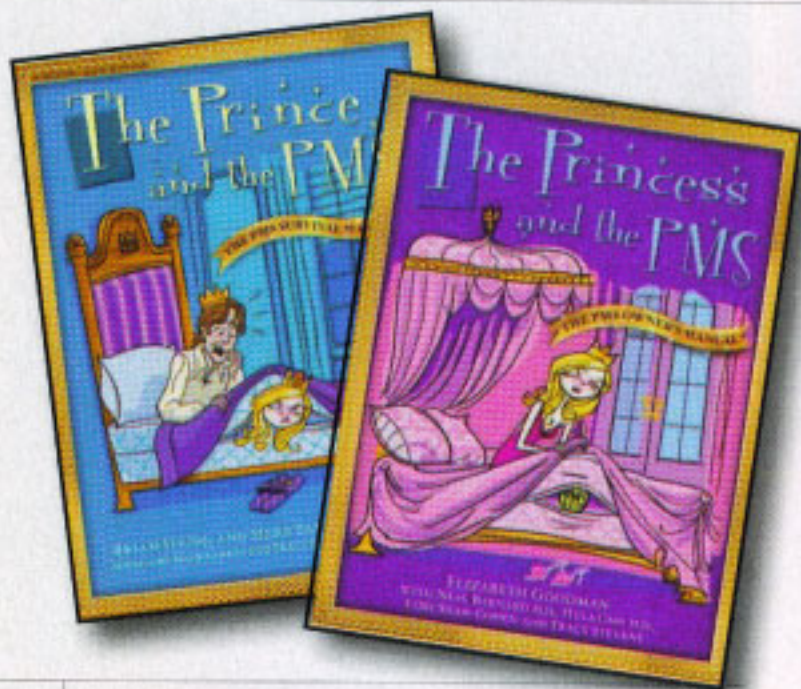
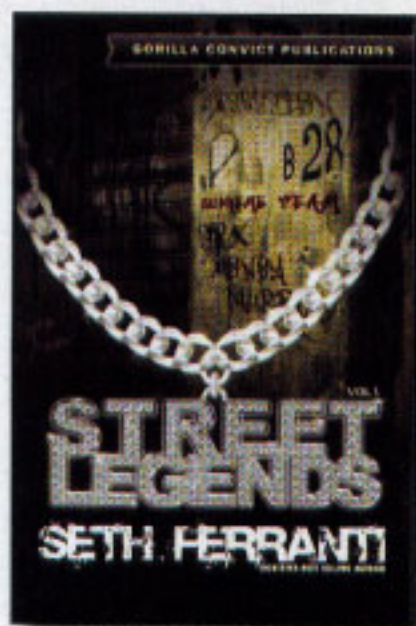
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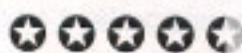


The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash

My Life, My Beats

By DJ Grandmaster Flash & David Ritz (Broadway; \$22.95)

The world would be a very different place if Grandmaster Flash had never existed. Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five—the first hip-hop stars to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame—were at the forefront of the South Bronx's emerging hip-hop scene back in the 70s. Even before they recorded "The Message," Flash's innovative cutting techniques cemented the concept that a DJ could be a band unto himself. Everyone knows that, but what everyone doesn't know is the details of the drama that went on behind the scenes. Flash, born Joseph Saddler, went from being a superstar pioneer of break-beat DJing, mixing, and scratching to yet another hip-hop legend who succumbed to financial woes. Hard times ensued, primarily a bout with drug addiction, but Flash eventually got himself back on track and lived to tell the tale. The end result is a comprehensive memoir of the seminal turntablist, told in his own words.—Harold Rodriguez



Street Legends

Vol. 1

By Seth Ferranti (Gorilla Convict Publications; \$15)

Any gangsta rap fan knows that the genre largely glamorizes the violent, fast-lane lifestyles of street hustlers and bangers. But little is known about the notorious street legends themselves, the men behind the lyrics that have made millionaires of countless wannabes. Incarcerated author Seth Ferranti has compiled a who's who of the late 20th Century's most infamous kingpins in *Street Legends*, a compendium series documenting crack-era America's criminal enterprises. By devoting a chapter apiece to his six subjects (Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, Wayne Perry, Anthony Jones, Aaron Jones, Peter "Pistol Pete" Rollack, and George "Boy George" Rivera), Ferranti has fashioned a rogues' gallery of drug lords that is as compelling as it is concise. But it's his fascinating handling of *omerta* (the Mafioso code that prohibits snitching) that humanizes (and romanticizes) the protagonists, making this a must-read for true-crime enthusiasts who don't believe the hype.—H.R.



The Princess and the PMS/ The Prince and the PMS

The PMS Owner's/Survival Manual

By Elizabeth Goodman, Brian Young & Herb Tanzer (Quantum Leaves; \$14.95)

Tired of blindly braving the estrogen minefield once a month? Sure you are, and that's why it's taken an entire team of life coaches, writers, and editors to create this two-books-in-one treatise on handling the horrors of premenstrual women. The women's side of the book, *The Princess and the PMS*, covers firsthand aspects of the syndrome, such as hormones, exercise, and diet. The men's side, *The Prince and the PMS*, concentrates on the ways in which men can relate to their significant others better during that time of the month. Unfortunately, other than some interesting medical factoids here and there (all of which are of far more interest to women than men), there's really not much meat for the book's purported male demographic. But if you decide to give it to your girl as a gag gift, you'll be slightly amused by flipping through a few chapters while standing in line at the checkout counter.—H.R.



COMICS



The Boys Volume Two: Get Some

By Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson (Dynamite Entertainment; \$14.99)

In Garth Ennis' world, superheroes are just like any other celebrities: pampered, self-absorbed, and dangerous to everyone around them. The only difference is that Lindsay Lohan can't crush your skull with her bare hands. In this trade paperback collecting issues 7 – 14 of the ongoing series, costumed vigilantes are a fact of life, worshipped and feared in equal measure. Controlled by the military-industrial complex and prone to perversions that would make Richard Gere blush, they care little for the mere mortals caught in the crossfire of their superpowered smackdowns. But when they get out of line, that's when the Boys go to work. Led by a foul-mouthed Brit named Butcher, they keep the capes in check by any means necessary. Like other Ennis classicks (*Preacher*, *Punisher*), *The Boys* is an outrageous mix of slapstick gore, shocking vulgarity, and unexpected depth. It'll make you wonder just what Superman is up to in that Fortress of Solitude of his.—Marcel Leroux

