



Ghetto Brothers: Warrior to Peacemaker

Julian Voloj

Claudia Ahlering, Illustrator

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The best way to stay safe living in the Bronx in the 1960s and '70s was to join a gang, which was exactly what Benjamin "Benjy" Melendez, the son of Puerto Rican immigrants, did, eventually forming and running the Ghetto Brothers gang. Voloj traces Benjy's story, the rising gang violence, and the surprising Hoe Avenue Peace Treaty in a fascinating examination of the events that led to the emergence of Hip Hop. It's also a personal story of survival, loss, oppression, and reclaiming one's heritage. Gorgeous black-and-white watercolor illustrations enhance this inspiring true story.

ALLYCE AMIDON (Fall 2015)

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