



## American Author: 5 Stars

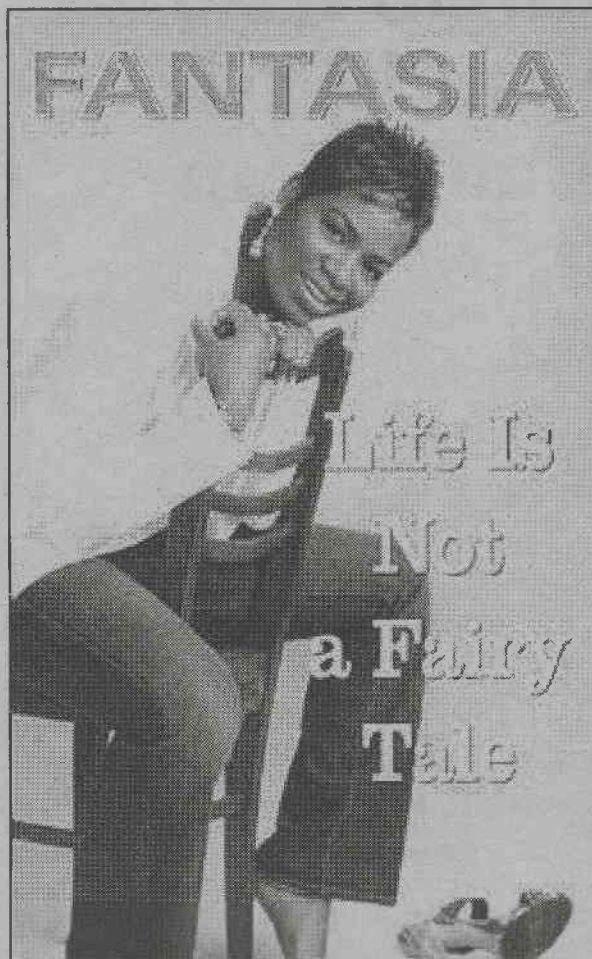


Photo courtesy of Fireside

By Tashonda  
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Editor-at-  
Large

Fantasia Barrino began singing at the prodigious age of five before small audiences at her church in Highpoint, North Carolina. Music has been her main source of joy ever since she toured with her mother, father and brothers all around the South, recorded two gospel albums

with her family, and at the age of 19 became an *American Idol* winner. Her first album, *Free Yourself*, was released on November 23, 2004. In *Life is Not a Fairy Tale*, Fantasia Barrino shares her fascinating and compelling personal story and turns her struggles and success into life lessons. With her sassy, self-confident style, Fantasia has worked through many mistakes to develop a keep-it-real, down-to-earth wisdom. After a childhood anchored by family, church and gospel music, Fantasia fell into the common teenage trap of trying to grow up too quickly. At the age of 17, she found herself quitting school, pregnant and in an abusive relationship. Though she

could have surrendered to such hardships, Fantasia persevered. She rediscovered her faith in God and in herself, promising to work hard to create a better life not only for her daughter, but because she deserved one. Fantasia's book shares the mottos of faith and strength that helped her to find her way off of the unfortunate path that she had taken and on to one of unlimited potential and success. Fantasia's book offers many life lessons such as, learning who your friends are, learning from mistakes, never giving up, and most importantly keeping it real always. I recommend this book to anyone and excellent page-turner. 5/5 stars

## D12 Rapper Proof Killed in Detroit

Courtesy of  
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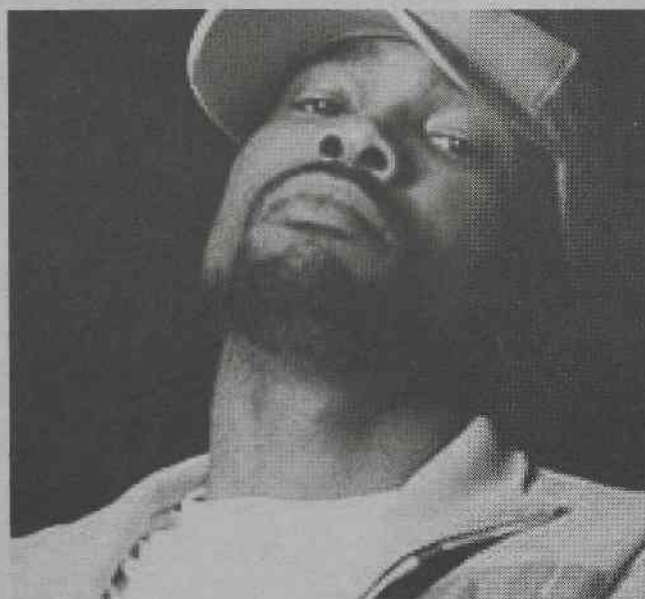
Rapper Proof of the rap group D12, one of the key figures on the Detroit hip-hop scene, was fatally shot Tuesday morning at a Detroit after-hours club, police said.

Proof, whose real name is Deshaun Holton, was dead on arrival at St. John Conner Creek hospital in Detroit, according to a spokeswoman for St. John Health System. He was 32.

Proof was among the most pivotal players in Detroit hip-hop, and revered as one of the battle rappers in the city — the man who would handle anyone who dared to challenge him in a war of words.

He befriended Eminem long before he was a household name, and was a nearly constant presence as the rapper rose to superstardom — including as the best man at his January wedding.

Proof was friends with many of the top hip-hop DJs, radio personalities, rappers and



D12 Rapper Deshaun "Proof" Holton AP Photo

producers in Detroit. A number of them were planning to gather with his family, including Eminem, Obie Trice and Marv Won from the Detroit group the Fat Killahz.

Police were called to the shootings around 5 a.m., following

reports of a fight and shots fired. The shooting occurred at a club called C.C.C. In the mid-'90s, Proof's Saturday afternoons were spent hosting rap battles at the famed Hip Hop Shop, a role that would be fictionalized by actor Mekhi Phifer in *8 Mile*, the Hollywood blockbuster film in which Proof also played a bit part.

Proof was a steady hand for

Detroit's then up-and-coming hip-hop scene. It was his idea to assemble a collection of Detroit's best hip-hop talent and call it D12. It was his hand that helped push Eminem to become one of the world's biggest pop stars,

including serving as his on-stage hype man on concert tours.

After the release of *8 Mile*, when battle rap was gaining newfound commercial exposure, Proof was hired to host a national search for the next best battle rapper by Showtime Networks.

In Detroit, he hosted Fight Club, a rap competition near his Iron Fist Records. There, Detroit hip-hop elite would gather and listen as up-and-comers would verbally duke it out, hoping to become as big as Proof, Eminem or other Detroit hip-hop comrades.

In January, he served as best man in Eminem's wedding, giving a poignant toast about how it's important to marry your best friend. D12 was scheduled to begin recording its third album this month.

The Memorial service took place on Wednesday April 19. This is the second shooting involving Eminem's entourage in three months. Obie Trice was shot and wounded New Year's Eve while driving along the Lodge Freeway.