



Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa (formerly, David Rice) began writing poems when he was 18, and has been locked up since he was 22. He and Ed Poindexter, leaders in the Omaha chapter of the Black Panther Party, were framed by the FBI and the Omaha Police Department for the murder of a police officer. They are victims of the FBI's notorious domestic spying. harassment. code-named disruption program COINTELPRO, which targeted and attempted to "neutralize" U. S. citizens who were deemed by the FBI to be a "danger to the United States."

"Most of the poems and raps in this collection were written in the past 10 years or so. "The White Sea" is a poem i wrote in '69 or '70, before the case came down. It is included because i wrote it while i thought of us as "black," while i was in the Party, and while i was still on the street. It's also included because it's a poem that wound up, for me, being prophetic."

"But looking back on those days, i wish We, and i, had known that it was important and crucial for us to get to know our African selves, the history of our people, traditional African cultures and values. I wish We'd understood that the Black Panther was really an African cat."

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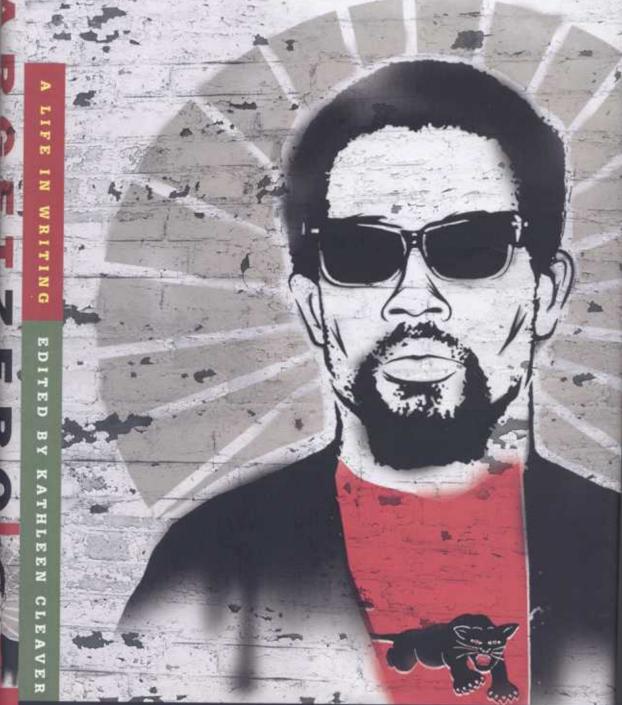
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