

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ix
Prologue	xi
Introduction	1

1 GETTING IN

Starting the Blackbook	13
A Brief History of Graffiti Writing	23
Crime Space vs. Cool Space: Breaking Down Broken Windows	47

2 GETTING UP

VERT: First Contact	59
Writer's Block: Blackbook in the Streets	65
Welcome to ESPO Land	73
ESPO: Illustrating Struggle	81
Into the Tunnel: Under Manhattan	85
A Pilgrimage to MEK: A Bronx Graffiti Tour	89
Legal Graffiti: Contemporary Permission Spots	97
Style Points: ESPO's Brooklyn Mural	105
Illustrating Criminal: Split PSOUP	115
AME: Bombing Styles, Inventing Self	119
AMAZE: Out-of-Towner Gets Up in the Tunnel	129
The Grate Graffiti Solution: ESPO's Public Surface Announcement	137

3 GETTING OUT

Over the Wall: Graffiti Media and Creating a Career	147
Writing Style: It's Not What You Wear	159
Career Opportunities: Rewriting Subculture Resistance	167
Timmy Tattoo: Timmy's Long Island Tattoo Shop	173
Gabe Banner: Market Wise	177
ESPO/Steve Powers: Dreamland Artist Club	181
CODA: Graffiti for Life	189
Appendix: The New Ethnography	191
Glossary	199
Notes	203
Bibliography	219
Index	227
About the Author	241