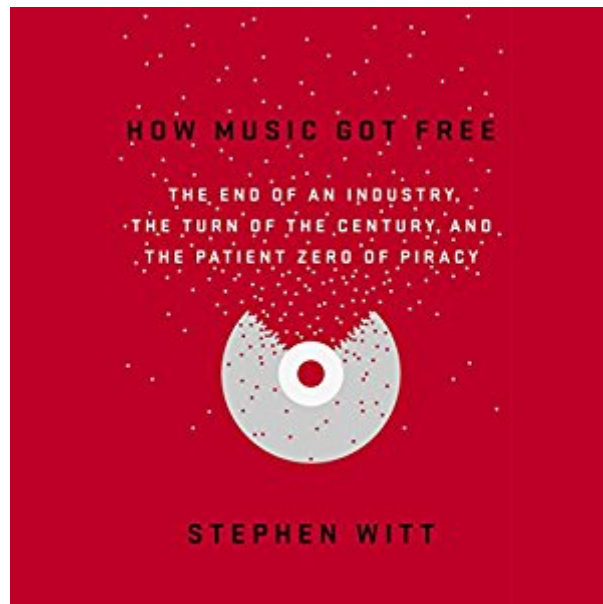


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# How Music Got Free: The End Of An Industry, The Turn Of The Century, And The Patient Zero Of Piracy



## Synopsis

"What happens when an entire generation commits the same crime?" *How Music Got Free* is a riveting story of obsession, music, crime, and money, featuring visionaries and criminals, moguls and tech-savvy teenagers. It's about the greatest pirate in history, the most powerful executive in the music business, a revolutionary invention, and an illegal website four times the size of the iTunes music store. Journalist Stephen Witt traces the secret history of digital music piracy, from the German audio engineers who invented the mp3 to a North Carolina compact-disc manufacturing plant where factory worker Dell Glover leaked nearly 2,000 albums over the course of a decade to the high-rises of midtown Manhattan where music executive Doug Morris cornered the global market on rap and finally into the darkest recesses of the Internet. Through these interwoven narratives, Witt has written a thrilling audiobook that depicts the moment in history when ordinary life became forever entwined with the world online - when suddenly all the music ever recorded was available for free. In the pause-resisting tradition of writers like Michael Lewis and Lawrence Wright, Witt's deeply reported first book introduces the unforgettable characters - inventors, executives, factory workers, and smugglers - who revolutionized an entire art form and reveals for the first time the secret underworld of media pirates that transformed our digital lives. An irresistible, never-before-told story of greed, cunning, genius, and deceit, *How Music Got Free* isn't just a story of the music industry - it's a must-listen history of the Internet itself.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I'm not sure digital piracy qualifies as an untold story at this late date, and I suspect opinions are

colored by generation. But *How Music Got Free*™ definitely fleshed out and clarified plenty of holes in my own recollection. Whether your point of reference is Bit Torrent and Pirate Bay, Usenet, Kazaa, Napster, or you're old-school and recall the Great Blank Cassette and VHS Tape Scare of the 70s and 80s, I think you'll find Witt's book informative, perhaps nostalgic, but certainly a hard-to-put-down fun read. The author does a masterful job threading multiple storylines portraying three main characters separated by geography, profession, and economics. They never meet yet each plays a vital role in the big picture — what, why and how — digital music piracy went from a college/hacker pastime that mutated rapidly — uncontrollably — into a worldwide phenomenon — one that impacted not just the music industry but the very notion of intellectual property and the entire digital content space we inhabit today with repercussions still in effect. But it would be a mistake to write off *How Music Became Free* as a sensationalist glorification of stick-it-to-the-corporations "pirate culture", à la *Away from Keyboard*. Curiously, Witt cites that film as an influence yet the tone of *How Music Got Free* is very different (and Pirate Bay itself plays a decidedly minor role).

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