

# PICK-UP GAME

A FULL  
DAY OF  
FULL  
COURT

edited by

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CANDLEWICK PRESS



# STEP INTO THE ARENA

*Charles R. Smith Jr.*

*9:12 A.M.*

Step into the arena  
where gladiators meet,  
the Cage at West 4th,  
home of hallowed concrete,  
where ballers test skill,  
heart  
soul  
and will,  
and go toe-to-toe  
to entertain  
and thrill  
faces behind fences  
focused courtside  
on warriors being tested  
with noplaceto hide.  
Battle-hardened bodies  
crash into the fence  
from “no blood, no foul”  
hands-on defense,  
making wide-eyed wannabes  
freeze and get shook,  
'cause here you show heart  
or your soul  
will get took.

