

DETROITER'S NOVEL INSPIRED FILM

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Donald Goines, whose gritty, urban **novel inspired** the movie "Never Die Alone," died in 1974 in his Highland Park flat, shot in the head several times. His partner, Shirley Sailor, was killed as well. Their murders were never solved.

Born in Detroit in 1936, Goines joined the Air Force at age 14 and, while in Korea, developed a heroin addiction that would stay with him all his life. After returning to the United States in 1955, he lived by stealing, pimping and bootlegging in several Midwestern cities.

He began writing during one of several prison sentences, with Holloway House publishing "Whoreson" in 1969. Goines wrote 15 more **novels**, including "Dopefiend," "Black Gangster" and "Never Die Alone" in the five years before his death.

Source: Production notes from "Never Die Alone," courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures, and Free Press archives.

Caption: Photo

Donald Goines

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