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POST MALONE

TWO EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE.

JELLY ROLL

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CHAPTER 1

EARLY LIFE

WHO IS POST MALONE?

Post Malone was born July 4, 1995, in Syracuse, New York. His real name is Austin Richard Post. When he was a teen, he typed his name into an online rap name generator. One of the results it gave him was Post Malone. This became his stage name. It would later appear at the top of rap, pop, and country charts.



WHO IS JELLY ROLL?

Jelly Roll's real name is Jason Bradley DeFord. He was born December 4, 1984, in Nashville, Tennessee. When he was little, his mom gave him a nickname. It was Jelly Roll. The name stuck. Family and friends began calling him that. Like Post Malone, Jelly Roll started out as a rapper. Later, he found success in rock and country. The two artists' paths would one day connect.



THE POST FAMILY

Post Malone grew up in a blended family. When Post Malone was two, his parents divorced. He was raised by his father and stepmother. His mother stayed close by. He had a stepbrother and a half-brother too. The family lived in Baldwinsville, New York. Baldwinsville is a small town outside of Syracuse. “It’s just a beautiful place to be,” Post Malone told a radio host.



Baldwinsville, New York



THE DEFORD FAMILY



The DeFords also lived at the edge of a city. That city was Nashville, Tennessee. Their neighborhood was called Antioch. It was rural but diverse. Jelly Roll had three older half-siblings. His father sold meats for a living. The family didn't have much money. But Jelly Roll's dad still gave back to the community. He volunteered at church and helped the homeless. "My father, Buddy DeFord, taught me how to wake up, get dressed, and go to work. . . . He also taught me to hate racism. . . . He taught me all men were created equal in the eyes of God," Jelly Roll wrote on Facebook. "Because of you, Pops, I'm the man that I am."

MUSIC CITY

Nashville is known as the capital of country music. But there is much more to its music scene. The city is full of blues and jazz clubs. There are rock and punk spots. In Jelly Roll's neighborhood, hip-hop and R&B were the most popular. A style called "Nashville hip-hop" is found in the region. It mixes soulful beats, a laid-back tempo, and country elements. All of these influences helped shape Jelly Roll's music.



Grapevine, Texas

MOVING CROSS-COUNTRY

When Post Malone was nine, his life changed. His dad got a new job. It was with the Dallas Cowboys. He'd run their food and beverage services. The family moved to Grapevine, Texas.

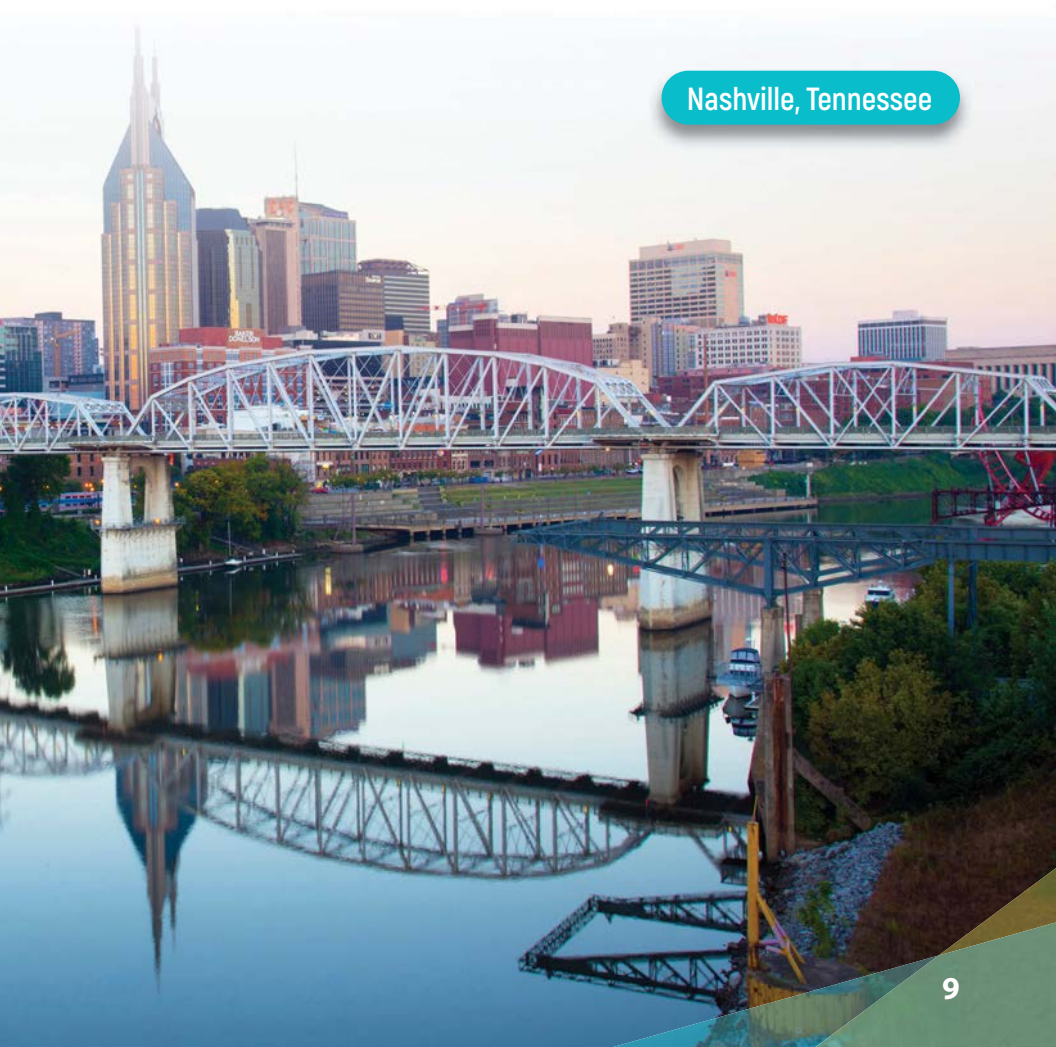
Grapevine is a suburb of Dallas. Leaving home was hard for Post Malone. "He was the maddest of everybody when we said we were moving," his dad told the *Dallas Observer*.



MAN OF THE HOUSE



Jelly Roll faced a big change too. When he was 13, his parents split up. The teen became “the man of the house.” His mother struggled with depression and substance abuse. How could he take care of her? Bringing in money would help. That became his new goal. It forced him to grow up fast.

A wide-angle photograph of the Nashville skyline at dusk. The city is reflected in the calm waters of the river. Several bridges are visible, including a large white truss bridge in the foreground and a blue steel bridge below it. The skyline features various skyscrapers, with the most prominent one being the AT&T Building. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue.

Nashville, Tennessee

STRUGGLING TO FIT IN

Post Malone started at a new school. It wasn't easy. In the beginning, he didn't fit in. Students thought he dressed funny. Some bullied him. At lunch, Post Malone sat alone. The next years were a dark time. He sank into depression. When he went to bed at night, he cried himself to sleep. The star never forgot this. "I've always had a loneliness," Post Malone told *Rolling Stone* magazine.





STRUGGLING TO GET BY

Jelly Roll looked for ways to make money. His dad took sports bets as a side job. Jelly Roll helped him. Soon Jelly Roll turned to the streets. Illegal activities pulled him into a dangerous world. He became a drug dealer. This was followed by addiction. The teen began to spiral downward.

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Two megastars living extraordinary lives.

Different paths to stardom.

Connected by music.

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