



To Be or Not to Bop

Dizzy Gillespie , Al Fraser

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To Be or Not to Bop Details

Date : Published July 1st 1979 by Doubleday (first published 1979)

ISBN : 9780385120524

Author : Dizzy Gillespie , Al Fraser

Format : Hardcover

Genre : Music, Jazz, Biography, History, Autobiography

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From Reader Review To Be or Not to Bop for online ebook

MCBod says

Less educational about the jazz movement in general than Miles' book. But it did make me love the man, Dizzy. What a talented, generous and giving individual

Andrew Kopp says

This is a biography and autobiography in one. Stories are told by Dizzy and then retold from other famous jazz musicians points of view. It is wonderful to see how the same event is remembered differently! So this book is not just a one character biography. Anyone who studies jazz history must read this. To hear from the mouths of so many influential people is a cornucopia of insight.

Bruce says

Dizzy rocks! This is an excellent tour of the birth of modern jazz (aka bebop)

Jim says

One of my favorite all-time autobiographies. Dizzy has more good stories than there are musical notes in "Salt Peanuts".

Charles says

Regarded as one of the best jazz autobiographies.

Gerry says

Occasionally repetitive but very interesting biography with some really technical musical aspects. My favourite aspect of the book was the racism Dizzy and his band were subjected to throughout their heyday. Worth a read for any trumpet player or jazz fan.

Billy says

This book is kinda boring, but has WONDERFUL interviews, photographic plates.

Bob Woodley says

This book needed an editor! Way too long.

But, many nuggets scattered here and there. He actually talks a little about the music theory (unlike Miles Davis' autobiography).

And he was a tough guy! He used his knife on several occasions to defend himself against white racists. And was clever and outspoken when confronting white power.

Always a goof ball, making inappropriate jokes, dancing like a nut on stage, falling off the stage on occasion.

He was a musician who along with Charlie Parker created modern jazz, the only person who could match Parker's wild speed on improv. A composer, a band leader, an inventor, and a top technician. Only Miles Davis has the same breath and Miles wasn't quite as technically proficient.

Dizzy was clean and did not fall into the trap of drug abuse like so many. He also seems like a genuinely nice person, and is reluctant to say anything too revealing which makes his bio less compelling than Davis' who dished right and left.
