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Beneath The Underdog: His World As Composed By Mingus



Synopsis

Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus [Paperback] by Charles Mingus

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am astonished at how few reviewers seem to "get" this book -- I knew it was a masterpiece, that much is obvious to me -- and it has fueled my love of Charles Mingus and his music to even greater heights than before. But I had no idea it were possible that it could be such a woefully and widely misunderstood masterpiece. To be clear where I'm coming from, I try to concentrate my reading on literature, rather than pulp and garbage, as I have the feeling that life is short and we've only got so much time to try and figure it out. Well, for passionate seekers, this book is literature, and it's far from a waste of time - it is, in fact, a crucial document. Sure, it's got some arguable flaws. He DOES go on about sex to a degree that might get a little tedious time and again. And per his disclaimer, there's plenty in here we won't feel compelled to take as 100% fact - yes, that might include the episode with the 20-plus prostitutes in Tijuana. But Good Lord, if you ever wanted a direct view into the mind of a towering, volcanic personality who was not only a musical genius, but a genius of a kind when it came to life itself, this is your book. Is sex not the stuff of life? Would most of us not wish there were more of it in our own memoirs? One of the most impressive aspects of this book are the speeches and dialogues - whether they are transcriptions from a near-photographic memory, or the artful compositions of a first-rate talent, they scream with authenticity, and provide an absolutely rich, riveting and priceless glimpse into the mind of Black America - and White America, for that

matter - in the 20th Century.

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