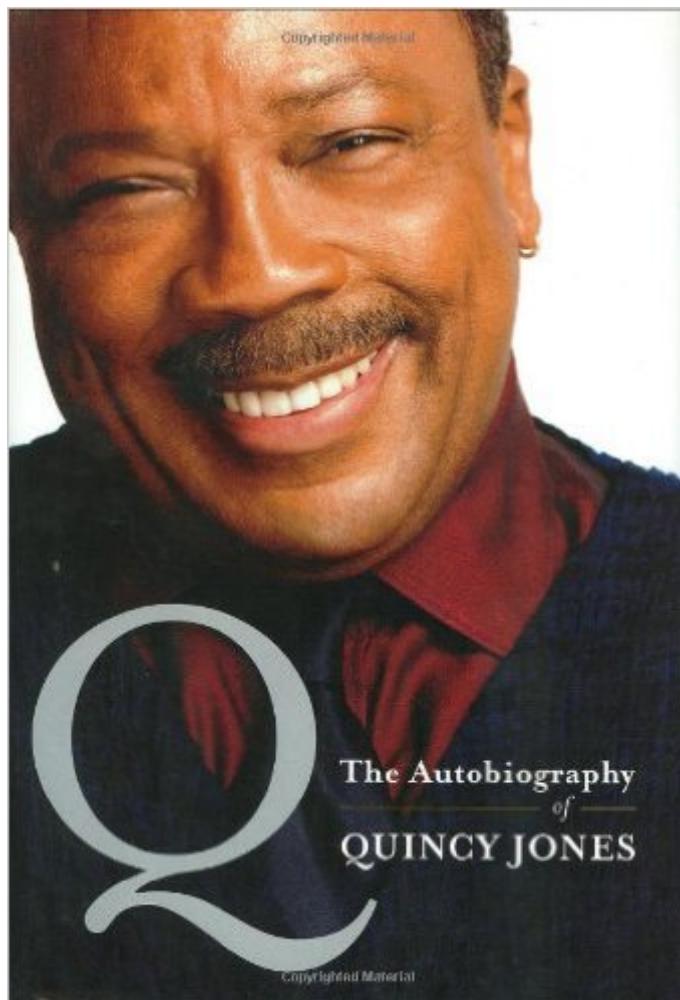


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Q: The Autobiography Of Quincy Jones



Synopsis

Musician, composer, producer, arranger, and pioneering entrepreneur Quincy Jones has lived large and worked for five decades alongside the superstars of music and entertainment -- including Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, Steven Spielberg, Oprah Winfrey, Ray Charles, Will Smith, and dozens of others. Q is his glittering and moving life story, told with the style, passion, and no-holds-barred honesty that are his trademarks. Quincy Jones grew up poor on the mean streets of Chicagoâ™s South Side, brushing against the law and feeling the pain of his motherâ™s descent into madness. But when his father moved the family west to Seattle, he took up the trumpet and was literally saved by music. A prodigy, he played backup for Billie Holiday and toured the world with the Lionel Hampton Band before leaving his teens. Soon, though, he found his true calling, inaugurating a career whose highlights have included arranging albums for Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, and Count Basie; composing the scores of such films as *The Pawnbroker*, *In Cold Blood*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *The Color Purple*, and the theme songs for the television shows *Ironside*, *Sanford and Son*, and *The Cosby Show*; producing the bestselling album of all time, Michael Jacksonâ™s *Thriller*, and the bestselling single âœWe Are the Worldâ•; and producing and arranging his own highly praised albums, including the Grammy Awardâ "winning *Back on the Block*, a striking blend of jazz, African, urban, gospel, and hip-hop. His musical achievements, in a career that spans every style of American popular music, have yielded an incredible seventy-seven Grammy nominations, and are matched by his record as a pioneering music executive, film and television producer, tireless social activist, and business entrepreneurâ "one of the most successful black business figures in America. This string of unbroken triumphs in the entertainment industry has been shadowed by a turbulent personal life, a story he shares with eloquence and candor. Q is an impressive self-portrait by one of the master makers of American culture, a complex, many-faceted man with far more than his share of talents and an unparalleled vision, as well as some entirely human flaws. It also features vivid testimony from key witnesses to his journeyâ "family, friends, and musical and business associates. His life encompasses an astonishing cast of show business giants, and provides the raw material for one of the great African American success stories of this century.

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Customer Reviews

The autobiography of Quincy Jones is like one of his arrangements: masterful, engaging on several levels, and state-of the-art. Jones' life story seems MADE for a highly dramatic, award-winning t.v. or big screen movie -- and I dearly hope it'll be made into one. Musician. Producer. Businessman. Composer. Arranger. Determination and incredible talent skyrocketing him over big obstacles. It's fitting that Jones' biggest passion is music because this outstanding autobiography truly SINGS. From the first pages, you're thrust into the drama -- and challenge -- of Jones' life. Born into a poor family, throughout most of his life (well into his adult years) Jones struggled with how to cope-with and at times how to distance himself from a mother who suffered from severe mental illness. Music became his savior and Jones embraced it like the stable motherly love which he sought and he lacked as a child. He embraced Mother Music, letting its beauty embrace, comfort and sustain him. There are several things that sets this book apart from other show biz bios and makes it such sheer JOY for readers of ALL ages (old fogies like me who grew up with his music as well as young folks interested in music, interested in biographies or interested in show business and the arts in general): 1. PANORAMIC STYLE. There is so much in it that we can only list a little here, such as the poignant vignette of a young, arts-smitten Jones, just discovering his musical "chops" and bonding with a blind teenage musician named Ray Charles who basically mentored and inspired him; his later associations with greats such as Sammy Davis Jr, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson and many many more.

I'm hooked.. from the early days in Chicago & Seattle, to going to Berklee and hooking up with Lionel Hampton.. meeting and becoming friends with all the show biz greats.. Bird, Basie, Hampton, Sinatra, Dizzy.. studying in Paris.. a great testament to a legend in entertainment.. I'm hoping his story

becomes a movie like RAY...i guess when you're really into a book, it goes fast for you.. there may be even more addendums in future releases..just thinking about the various stories and anecdotes here--.. the surprisingly integrated middle & high school he attended-- though there was racism bubbling underneath the surface..His father, a skilled carpenter, did work for a team of racketeers in Chicago.. He would ultimately commit their mother to a mental institute, and abruptly move the family-- with new wife soon to follow-- to Seattle.....having to deal with a resentful stepmother, who would bar her non-biological children-- Quincy and Lloyd-- from the refrigerator..getting hired by lionel hampton and kicked off the bus by his wife in the same day.. he was still in high school..the painful descent of his mother into mental illness while still a boy.. which never went away, as she would drift in and out of he and his brother Lloyd's life, instigating chaotic conflicts regularly.. Still living to the ripe old age of 91.. a chance call to his daughter Kidada finally brought him some sense of closure..his long-time relationship with Frank Sinatra, at one point telling Jones of his private crush on Billie Holiday.. having a crew of Eastern euro bodyguards to look after him and other black band members while interacting in Las Vegas casinos..getting involved in scoring movies..

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