



Divided Soul: The Life Of Marvin Gaye (Da Capo Paperback)

By David Ritz



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Drawing from interviews conducted before Marvin Gaye's death, acclaimed music writer David Ritz has created a full-scale portrait of the brilliant but tormented artist. With a cast of characters that includes Diana Ross, Berry Gordy, Smokey Robinson, and Stevie Wonder, this intimate biography is a definitive and enduring look at the man who embodied the very essence of the word soul.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Based largely on interviews for a projected "autobiography" that was cancelled after Gaye's death in 1984 at the hands of his father, this book is neither especially well-written nor perceptive. PW recommended that the Motown singer's fans "skip the book and listen to his records instead."

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Review

"One of the most widely acclaimed pop music biographies finally gets the audio treatment. As coauthor of one of Gaye's biggest hits, 'Sexual Healing,' David Ritz actually knew Marvin Gaye, and their relationship gives this narrative a degree of intimacy rare in biographies . . . At the root of it was the artist's complex relationship with his father, a contradiction that Dion Graham narrates expertly, mimicking the dialects of Marvin and his father. Graham is at ease with the colloquialisms that abound in this rough-and-tumble story of the rhythm-and-blues business and the performer who was at the center of it all until his father tragically took his life." --*AudioFile*

"[David Ritz] tells Marvin Gaye's sorrowful story with remarkable insight and sensitivity . . . *Divided Soul* is often startlingly candid, but it manages to avoid lurid sensationalism, no mean feat given the particulars of the story: sex, drugs, child abuse, show business scandal." --*Nation*

"Dion Graham channels Marvin Gaye in his riveting performance of Ritz's 1985 biography of the singer."

--*Library Journal*

"A biography as dramatic as any to come out of the pop field . . . told with sympathy and unflinching candor." --*San Francisco Chronicle*

"You won't find a more fascinating rock bio." --*Village Voice*

About the Author

David Ritz is the author of *Faith in Time: The Life of Jimmy Scott*, *Divided Soul: The Life of Marvin Gaye*, and many other books with or about Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, and B.B. King. He is a three-time winner of the Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award. He lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Nichols:

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Helen Jackson:

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