



## Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus

By Charles Mingus

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### **Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus** By Charles Mingus

Bass player extraordinaire Charles Mingus, who died in 1979, is one of the essential composers in the history of jazz, and *Beneath the Underdog*, his celebrated, wild, funny, demonic, anguished, shocking, and profoundly moving memoir, is the greatest autobiography ever written by a jazz musician.

It tells of his God-haunted childhood in Watts during the 1920s and 1930s; his outcast adolescent years; his apprenticeship, not only with jazzmen but also with pimps, hookers, junkies, and hoodlums; and his golden years in New York City with such legendary figures as Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, and Dizzy Gillespie. Here is Mingus in his own words, from shabby roadhouses to fabulous estates, from the psychiatric wards of Bellevue to worlds of mysticism and solitude, but for all his travels never straying too far, always returning to music.

“This book is the purest of dynamite. Like the autobiographies of Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday and like A. B. Spellman's *Four Lives in the Bebop Business*, it says more about the American psyche in general and black survival in particular than the sociologists and psychologists ever can in their stiff, soulless vocabularies.... Somber, comic, disturbing, boastful, confessional, sentimental, contradictory, poetic, irascible, impish...lyrical, nasty, angelic, reflective...expressionistic, picaresque, jive...this is a powerful book.”—  
Rolling Stone

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Amazon.com Review**

A wild, lyrical, and anguished autobiography, in which Charles Mingus pays short shrift to the facts but plunges to the very bottom of his psyche, coming up for air only when it pleases him. He takes the reader through his childhood in Watts, his musical education by the likes of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Parker, and his prodigious appetites--intellectual, culinary, and sexual. The book is a jumble, but a glorious one, by a certified American genius.

#### **About the Author**

At once an essential composer in the history of jazz and a bass player extraordinaire, Charles Mingus was born on April 22, 1922 in Nogales, Arizona, and grew up in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Watts. He made his recording debut with Lionel Hampton in 1947, and performed on numerous recordings with Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Stan Getz, Duke Ellington, Bud Powell, Art Tatum, and many others. His several honors included a Guggenheim Fellowship, an honorary degree from Brandeis University, and the Slee Chair in Music at the State University of New York in Buffalo. Charles Mingus died in 1979 at the age of 56.

### **Users Review**

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##### **John Jacquez:**

This Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

##### **Carrie Wilson:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

**Jeffrey Spencer:**

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