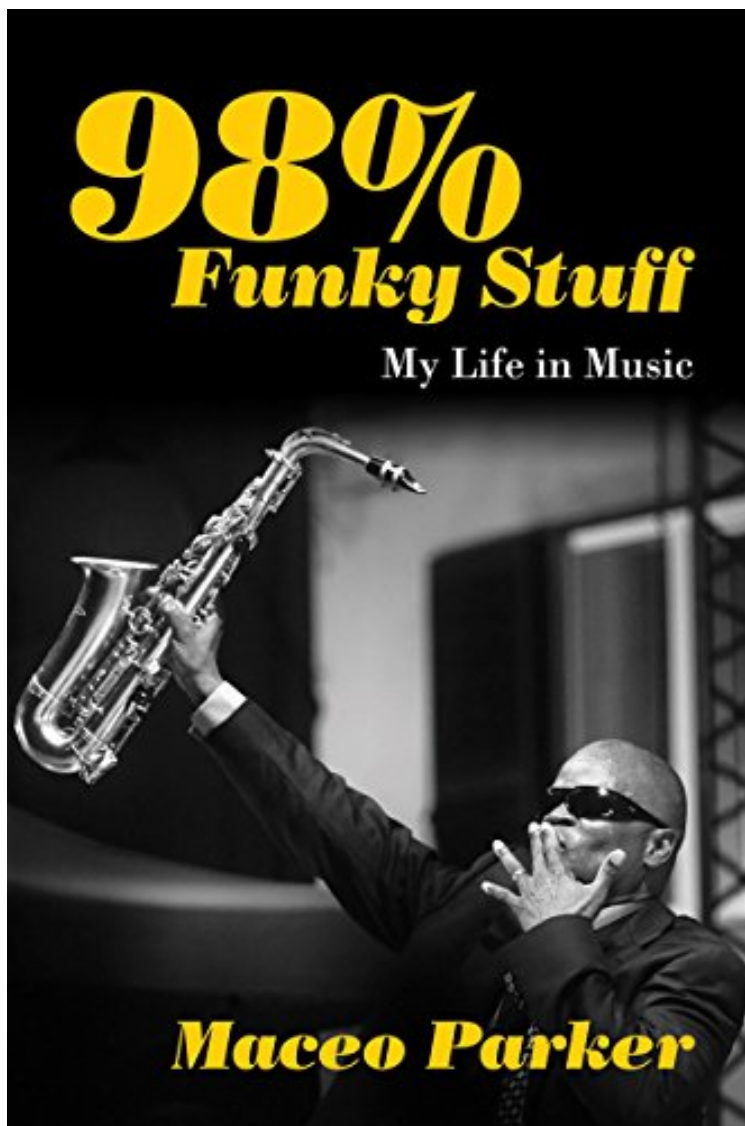


98% Funky Stuff: My Life in Music

Maceo Parker

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Maceo Parker : 98% Funky Stuff: My Life in Music before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 98% Funky Stuff: My Life in Music:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerEnjoyed the reading just as I enjoy his music2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 98% Funky, but where's the soul of the man?By Mark JefferyI LOVE Maceo's music, and was thrilled to see that he had written a biography. Unfortunately, I didn't get a deep feeling from his written words like I do from his recorded work. While he has surely led an interesting life, he never really bares his soul and let's us into the depths of what makes him who he is. You learn of his experiences, but not of

the man. That said, the book did offer interesting accounts of his development as a musician, his ascent to playing with James Brown and George Clinton, and finally his creative peak as an artist in his own right. Good, but not great.³ of 4 people found the following review helpful. Awesome ReadBy Jam O. Very glad to have purchased. I read it on my kindle during train rides to and from work. The writing is very easy to digest. If you love Maceo and his music and want to read more about his interaction with James Brown, George Clinton, and others, then you will appreciate this read. Has some cool early pictures as well.

Revealing the warm and astonishing story of an influential jazz legend, this personal narrative tells the story of a man's journey from a Southern upbringing to a career touring the world to play for adoring fans. It tells how James Brown first discovered the Parker brothers—Melvin, the drummer, and Maceo on sax—in a band at a small North Carolina nightclub in 1963. Brown hired them both, but it was Maceo's signature style that helped define Brown's brand of funk, and the phrase "Maceo, I want you to blow!" became part of the lexicon of black music. A riveting story of musical education with frank and revelatory insights about George Clinton and others, this definitive autobiography arrives just in time to celebrate the 70th birthday of the author—one of the funkier musicians alive—and will be enjoyed by jazz and funk aficionados alike.

From School Library Journal
Gr 7–10—If readers do not have the same respect for Parker's name that the musician had for his idol, Ray Charles, that is likely to have changed by the time they finish reading this biography of a music prodigy and one of the best saxophone players in the music business. Drawn to the piano as a toddler, Parker astonished his parents with an innate ability that they eagerly fostered throughout his childhood, although a spur-of-the-moment impression from a parade led the young impresario to change to the saxophone, and he never looked back. A combination of having good luck with mentors, being driven to perform, and being determined to find his own sound put Parker in a position where he was hired as a seasoned performer with his brother by James Brown while still a college student in 1964. He blossomed as an artist during this period, before being drafted by the army. The narrative deftly handles the firsthand view of civil-rights issues and the historical events pertinent to the author, making this a relevant book for school libraries. Where the text shines is in the author's handling of the musicians with whom he played. No foibles and difficulties such as drugs, Brown's legal difficulties, and band squabbles are overlooked, and the text still manages to include a solid picture of the life of an artist and the evolution of funk music.—Betsy Fraser, Calgary Public Library, Canada
From Booklist
In a memoir as upbeat and swinging as his funky, jazzy, ebullient music, saxophonist Parker charts the course of his brilliant, affirming career. Born in 1943, he grew up in Kinston, North Carolina, in a musical, church-oriented household. Parker could barely reach the piano keys when he began teaching himself to play. He switched to the saxophone, and as young teens, he and his brothers, Kellis on trombone and Melvin on drums, were a sensation. They were in college when Melvin caught James Brown's ear. Maceo and Melvin ended up joining Brown's world-altering band, but Maceo had to prove himself before becoming famous as Brown's main sax player and emcee. Parker's irresistible chronicle of his adventures with the notoriously exacting Godfather of Soul, especially at the height of the civil rights movement, and with the wildly inventive Bootsy Collins and George Clinton, as well as of his challenges establishing his own bands, offers fascinating and moving testimony to the demands and joys of a life in music, especially a creative life dedicated to spreading a positive message of love. --Donna Seaman "An important addition to any library of black music biographies." —DownBeat