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Dizzy



Synopsis

From the author of FRIDA comes a jangly, jumpy, beboping book about Dizzy Gillespie, the clown prince of jazz. This is the story of Dizzy Gillespie, a real cool cat who must have been born with a horn in his hands, judging from the way he played the trumpet. Jazz was his ticket on a train to better days, and he left his hard life in a small town for New York City and the hottest band around. But did Dizzy stand straight and play right? NO! He was a clown. He hit high notes, low notes, never-been-heard notes, and before he knew it, Dizzy created a whole new music: BEBOP. This is a story about a boy who breaks all the rules -- and finds his own personal heaven along the way.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books (October 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439507375

ISBN-13: 978-0439507370

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 10.9 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #854,811 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #212 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#) #1131 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

I have read this book and studied the illustrations several times now and still have not made up my mind about "Dizzy." Why so difficult? You see, that's the problem--I don't know. Let me walk you through the story. I love the colors: pinks, chocolates, purples, grays, blacks, pale turquoise, and burgundy. The end pages are chocolate--symbolic of the color of Dizzy Gillespie's skin, then following the new trend in children's books--beginning the illustrations before even reaching the title page. There are two angels blowing their trumpets, announcing the delivery of a new baby--little John Birks Gillespie to a man in overalls and a woman in an orange dress walking down a country road in South Carolina. "This is the story of one real COOL cat...born very poor and very tough."

Displayed against rose pink walls are three boys, one downcast and two ugly-faced. The other boys beat up John Birks, until "one day he just couldn't take it anymore...and he whooped the living tar out of some big bully." Now John is ugly-faced, too. Those rose pink walls are smeary gray and rusty pink."He was always mad./ You see, his dad/ was always beating on HIM...." And a big-fisted, ugly-faced man stands over a puzzled little boy. The colors are grays and browns with one wine-colored rug because---the next two pages show a boy with a trumpet given to him by his music teacher. He blasts his anger through that horn and the sound is clotted-blood-red, pink, smeary white.He plays and plays until the pages turn pale pink and show birds and butterflies (though they are gray). Even his shadow is gray, but the music, ah, the music has turned a smooth wine red. What he learns to play is JAZZ. "Jazz was like getting in trouble--it was FUN!

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