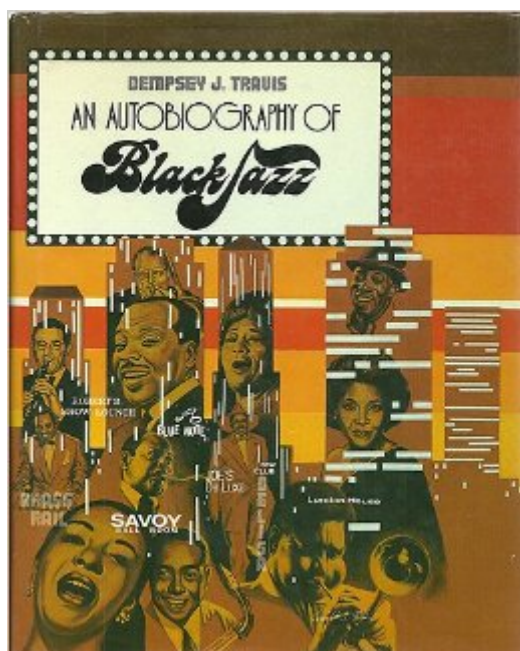


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# An Autobiography Of Black Jazz



## Synopsis

An Autobiography of Black Jazz

## Book Information

Hardcover: 543 pages

Publisher: Academy Chicago Pub; 1st edition (November 1983)

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Europeans love blacks who play jazz. Dorothy Donegan born in Chicago in 1922 said, "They want us to do jazz, blues, and boogie-woogie. They are crazy about musicians like Memphis Slim, Muddy Waters, and B. B. King. They prefer them to Billy Eckstine and Johnny Hartmann." She tells of befriending a washroom attendant named Ruth Jones who later became the singer Dinah Washington. She also knew Erroll Garner who had a good version of "Play Misty For Me." Studs Terkel wrote in the Introduction: "The bandstand at the Harlem Cotton Club" was a replica of a Southern mansion with large white columns and a backdrop painted with weeping willows and slave quarters. The orchestra performed in front of the large double doors to the mansion. Down four steps was the dance floor, which was also used for floor shows. The waiters were dressed in red tuxedos, like butlers in a Southern mansion. The entire scene created a 'Gone With the Wind' atmosphere that made every male feel like Rhett Butler and every woman Scarlet O'Hara. Since the waiters were paid only one dollar a night, they had to hustle like Rochester and hope that Rhett Butler would leave a big tip." I was waiting for a bus at the mall a few months ago when I overheard a conversation of a couple and the male had just been hired to be a waiter at a fancy restaurant there. He pointed at me and said, "I'll get big tips from people like her." I had a friend for many years, Vivian Sims, who regaled me with her personal experiences at the Cotton Club near where

her mother owned some apartments. She had a ball there during her twenties, she said, before coming South to the black Harvard, Fisk University, where one of my sons taught for five years.

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