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Marvin Gaye, My Brother (Book)



Synopsis

(Book). Marvin Gaye's life and brilliant career were cut tragically short on April 1, 1984 one day before his 45th birthday when he was shot and killed by his own father. Now, for the first time ever, Marvin Gaye's story is told in intimate detail by a member of his own family. Frankie and Marvin Gaye were close from childhood until Marvin's death. Frankie was at Marvin's side when he died, and only Frankie heard his deathbed confession. Full of never-before-told personal anecdotes, this book takes you behind the scenes from Marvin's childhood, through his spectacular success at Motown and then Columbia, his stormy relationships with women, and finally to his descent into drugs and despair. The true story of the man behind the beloved music is now available to fans old and new. Includes great photos throughout, a helpful index, and a timeline of important events in Marvin's life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This posthumous memoir (Frankie Gaye died of a heart attack in 2001), reconstructed from a year of interviews with collaborator Basten, presents the tragic, tumultuous career of Motown singer Marvin Gaye from his younger brother's perspective. Bookended by the sorrowful scene of Marvin's violent death, the story moves from the brothers' tough childhood, dominated by a stern, God-fearing father, through Marvin's rise to fame and into his paranoid, drug-fueled dissolution. Through it all, brother Frankie watches from the wings, offering support and solace, and joining in the party when the times are good. Due to their close physical resemblance, Frankie appears with

Marvin onstage at times to confuse the crowd. Perhaps most importantly, both for Frankie and Marvin, Frankie's experience in Vietnam colors Marvin's increasingly politicized art in the 60s. "I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Marvin, my brother, the star, was so inspired by me that he had written a song about me-for me-a song about the frustrations of a returning Vietnam vet, a song that was so personal and heartfelt I started to cry," Frankie says. The song was "What's Happening, Brother," on the landmark *What's Goin' On*. With great affection for his deeply flawed family-his father's religious zealotry, his brother's rebellious self-destruction-Frankie himself emerges as a sensitive, cautious peacekeeper and witness, a paradigmatic younger brother to one of music's great voices. 30 b&w photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Frankie Gaye was a composer and singer, whose experiences in the Vietnam War were credited with influencing his older brother Marvin's album *What's Going On*. He died in December 2001 at the age of 60. Fred E. Basten, of Santa Monica, has written twenty books on Hollywood and entertainment.

I rate Frankie Gaye's book 4 stars (5 if you're a Marvin fan) for one reason - it is readable and provides a different perspective. Simply written and clear, the book doesn't try to pretend to analyze Marvin's life or music. The main criticism of the book from others is that it doesn't go deep enough or tell the whole story. My counter to the critics is: why would we expect it to? As a brother, Frankie writes as one might expect - anecdotally, and in a sentimental tone here and there. That was his prerogative. Sibling biographies including Jermaine Jackson's book on Michael, inevitably leave out certain details. As a reader, we have to take it with a pinch of salt. I appreciated certain details about Marvin's life that I believe, could have only come from Frankie's eyes. His experiences in Vietnam that led in some ways to Marvin's social consciousness album *What's Going On*; the small moments between brothers; and Marvin's aspirations and character insights. Those who want to read about Marvin's erratic behavior won't get a juicy expose here - but that is already documented in David Ritz's *Divided Soul*. Yes, the book does gloss over certain details. One should also note when Frankie is paraphrasing Marvin. Again, I take it as what it is - words from Marvin's mouth. The big question mark some readers have is over how Marvin and Frankie's father was characterised. Critics thought Frankie was too gentle on his dad. Well, he was his father's son after all. And Marvin's "snub" of Princess Margaret in London is also not covered in detail as it is in David Ritz's book. Still, it seems strange to brand the book as a superficial account of Marvin. It isn't. Neither does the book try to idealize the man. The value of the book is in the early years and even in

Marvin's final moments. Most of all, I appreciated that it was different from David Ritz's *Divided Soul* - the definitive biography and one of my favourite books. For a more complete Marvin read - buy that book. But this is certainly part of Marvin's legend and canon.

The book was received before time and was in good condition as stated. I cannot wait to indulge in this story and write a review about it. Marvin Gaye's life was filled with happiness, success, depression, wealth and tragedy. If only he was still here, he would have turned music on it's ear. There will never be another Marvin Gaye

I enjoyed reading this book . . . I loved that it was from his brother's account of his life. He told us about the letters Marvin wrote to him during his road tours. He gave us an insight of his father, mother and sisters. He also let us know that although his father had a different way of doing things, he did indeed know Marvin's limitations. He taught Marvin to play the piano and he let us know his early shyness before he became a big star.

Very good book. Highly recommended. Gets a little wordy & veer off from Marvin a few times but still a great read

Big Marvin Gaye fan. Read every book about the man I could find. Fabulous singer, song writer, one of the best whose work has stood the test of time. His work will still be relevant years from now. Enjoyed the book especially by a sibling who grew up with Marvin and had knowledge and information on the man and the family dynamics that shaped him.

I enjoyed this book. Sad, the author died before it was published. Marvin was indeed a troubled man.

I enjoyed the book. It put aside some myths that I had about what happened to Marvin It also explained a lot of why things happened as they did. I especially enjoyed the insight into the Motown atmosphere & the times in which Marvin lived.

i finish this book today i enjoy read this book i share with my mom it just lil insight into his life and marvin and frankie relationship was great stories to me it got me out my boring life was in and listen to marvin and reading this book at same time is fun too

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