



You Just Fight for Your Life: The Story of Lester Young

Frank Büchmann-Møller

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A Danish musician here presents the most accurate, comprehensive work on a major figure in American jazz: Lester Willis Young (1909-1959), better known as 'Pres' or 'Prez,' from the nickname 'President' given to him by Billie Holiday. Based on interviews with Young's colleagues and friends, and often presenting his own vulgar scatological words, the book faithfully chronicles the ups and downs of his life and career. Despite his alcoholism, drug addiction, syphilis, epilepsy, and emotional disturbances, Young became the outstanding tenor saxophonist of his time and a dominant, profound influence on the development of bop and progressive ('cool') jazz in the 1940s. His solos with the bands of Fletcher Henderson and Count Basie and his collaboration with Holiday are recalled in this outstanding biography. *Publishers Weekly*

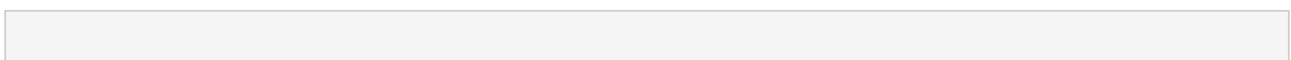
[This is] the big, warm book about Lester Young that swing lovers have been waiting for, written by a Danish jazz musician. This is a rich authentic life of one of the three greatest tenor players who ever lived, much of it told in vivid quotation from eyewitnesses. Kirkus this is the first thoroughgoing biography of one of America's greatest musicians; its fascination for at least jazz aficionados is magnetic....Along with Porter's magisterial work of musical analysis, *Lester Young*, this is the book to have on the most influential jazzman between Armstrong and Parker. *Booklist*

A fascinating and invaluable compilation of raw material...a straightforward, accurate narrative.

The New York Times

By far the most comprehensive work available on the extraordinary Lester Young, *You Just Fight For Your Life* is the jazz enthusiast's dream come true. Meticulously researched and teeming with previously unpublished information, this book accurately recreates the life and character of one of the world's greatest jazz musicians. Historian Frank Buchmann-Møller crafts a full length biography exclusively for Lester Young fans focusing on Young's philosophy of life, his exceptional ability as a bandleader, and his sharp wit. Through the examination of army psychiatric reports, interviews with fellow musicians, and concert reviews, *You Just Fight For Your Life* tells the story of this gifted yet troubled musician.

Beginning with his childhood, the book accurately chronicles the many bands in which Lester Young played prior to joining Count Basie in 1936. Through countless interviews with Young's peers, the book recounts the Basie years and the spicy stories of life on the road. The author includes new information about Young's own first band and follows this with details of his military experience. The final chapters deal with his years as featured soloist. Two appendices list all of Young's jobs from 1919-59 and his own bands chronologically as well as all musicians with whom he played. Now Lester Young followers have a full length biography valuable not only as a reference but for its recreation of a fascinating life.



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Kevin Primeaux:

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Looking at a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information especially this You Just Fight for Your Life: The Story of Lester Young book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Pat Clark:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love You Just Fight for Your Life: The Story of Lester Young, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Stella Carpenter:

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Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This You Just Fight for Your Life: The Story of Lester Young can be the respond to, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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