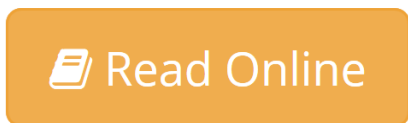


Miles to Go: The Lost Years

By Chris Murphy



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Told by Chris Murphy, a young, down-on-his-luck, Irish-American guitarist who devoted himself to Miles Davis, first as his roadie and assistant, and then as one of his most trusted road managers, Miles to Go is a frank and intimate exploration of Davis's eccentric working life, drug habits, paranoia, depression, and subsequent recovery. It also deals with Davis's troubled relationship with his children and the controversial role Cicely Tyson played in his life. Murphy explores the dynamics that made Davis's band work so well together, placing Davis's work in a historic, literary, and musical framework. It corrects Davis's own almost self-hating autobiography, and attempts to treat with some balance the rumors about Davis being bisexual and HIV positive upon his death. Willie Nelson, Mick Jagger, Jimi Hendrix, and a very unlikely Mother Theresa all have walk-on parts in this engaging, intelligent, and often hilarious narrative that takes us from the small seedy jazz clubs that Davis was always at home in, to the world tours, and then finally to Davis's triumphant return with his celebrated concerts at Lincoln Center in the early '80s. Eight pages of black-and-white photos are included.

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Miles to Go: The Lost Years By Chris Murphy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3632658 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Thunder's Mouth Press
- Published on: 2001-12-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.00" h x 6.32" w x 9.33" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this thin memoir, an adoring fan and former assistant of Miles Davis makes a plea for the legendary musician's sainthood. Working as Miles's roadie and doting servant for two narrow stretches 1973-1976, and 1981-1983 the author recounts his sketchy memories and tales from the road in an effort to shine more light on the musician's later years. (In the mid-1970s, Miles quit playing music altogether and slid into a five-year depression, reemerging in the early '80s with a few inspired, if uneven, records.) Unfortunately, most of these fragmented anecdotes like the one about Miles's pants repeatedly popping open on stage during a concert, or the "Spinal Tap" moment when he got himself wrapped up in the wires to his amp tell readers little about the man. Murphy is also unconvincing in his attempts to correct Miles's own "self-hating autobiography." On Miles being a misogynist: "I never once saw him raise his hand against a woman"; a hater of whites: "No, he didn't." It all reads like vanity press and is likely to disappoint even the most obsessive Miles fans. They and newcomers will be better off with Miles: The Autobiography with Quincy Troupe, and Ian Carr's Miles Davis: The Definitive Biography.

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From [Booklist](#)

An out-of-work guitarist in the 1970s, Murphy gave up his day job at a music store to work as a road crew member and later as road manager for Miles Davis' band, during one of the most tumultuous eras in the trumpeter's long musical career. The two formed a close bond, and their professional relationship evolved into friendship, with Murphy becoming an all-around man Friday to Davis. Many of the "scandalous" aspects of Miles' life--drug use and freewheeling sex life--are fairly well-known and widely reported. But Murphy has written a revisionist account of Miles the man. Instead of the enigmatic, aloof, intimidating, and violent person Davis revealed to the public in his autobiography, Murphy insists the man he knew was far more human than the myth. Murphy portrays Miles as funny, loyal, and generous but lonely and often depressed, struggling with the pressures of his career and chaotic personal life during what was a difficult era for jazz musicians. *Ted Leventhal*

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Review

"What ultimately emerges . . . is Murphy's affectionate view of Davis as a friendlier, even gentler Davis than previously experienced through other biographical portraits." -- *Bret Saunders, DenverPost.com*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Norberto Brody:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed Miles to Go: The Lost Years? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Shirley Kistner:

The book Miles to Go: The Lost Years gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with your subject. If you can make examining a book Miles to Go: The Lost Years to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a reserve Miles to Go: The Lost Years. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this guide?

Bethany Eng:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Miles to Go: The Lost Years your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The Miles to Go: The Lost Years giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Katherine Shadrick:

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Miles to Go: The Lost Years can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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