



5.0 out of 5 stars Parallel Lives, February 25, 2009

By StoneWest Chambers - ASCAP "Jessi" (Nashville, TN USA)

"With no thanks to the school of hard knocks and tough competition, the romanticism of a songwriter's life is not all it's cracked up to be but the journey of chasing a song out of one's heart is. Rand Bishop leads us through parallel lives as he simultaneously shares his memoirs and takes the reader on a co-writing journey from title selection and a blank sheet of paper all the way through to the all important re-write/editing stage(s) of writing a song. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention he ushers the page turner(s) to a safe arrival at the end of the book utilizing a healthy and playful sense of humor, humilty and sincere encouragement to aspiring songwriters. For those who like autobiographies and are also music lovers, from teenager to top of the charts hit writer, Rand's recollection of his music business odyssey is a fun and entertaining read. For the serious writer, this is the type of book where the reader will benefit differently each time they read it and stumble across some little gem they overlooked on a previous pass to subsequently produce that elusive 'A-HA!' moment of genius to find a new way to say the same ole thing. The advice Rand shares ranks right up there with the likes of Pat Pattison and Harriet Schock. Thank you, Rand, for the approach from which you chose to write this helpful book."



5.0 out of 5 stars The Cat Has Been Let Out of the Bag, February 10, 2009

By Mr. Bonzai (Hollywood, CA USA)

"After reading 'Makin' Stuff Up' you will never listen to songs in the same way again. Bishop reveals the hidden secrets of great songwriting, effectively letting the cat out of the bag."

-- Mr. Bonzai, author/photographer: Faces of Music, Hal Blaine and the Wrecking Crew, Studio Life, and MUSIC SMARTS (Berklee Press, 2009).
Music Smarts - The Inside Truth And Road-Tested Wisdom From The Brightest Minds In The Music Business



5.0 out of 5 stars Read this if you love, or want to make, music., January 6, 2009
By Ray Baisden "Ray" (Clear Lake, CA)

"Rand Bishop is a man with the background to write this. He sheds a human light on an all too often inhumane music business with a full understanding of the artistry, exceptions, and caring which make the music matter.

The book is a primer for the aspiring songwriter. It's also accessible to people who care enough about music to learn how it's done. It's inspiring, but it's also the nuts and bolts and heartbreaks.

Rand actually takes you step by step through the writing of a song. He knows what he's talking about. And you learn how real he is by the personal experiences he interjects.

If you love music, buy this book. It's as close as can be written down to being part of the process of making that which we love."

5.0 out of 5 stars You did it!, December 30, 2008
By Melanie B. Pickrell "screenwife" (Hollywood,CA)

"Finally I know what goes on behind the scene of writing a hit record. This book is a fun and fast read, a roller coaster of near misses that ends with the right on Bullseye of "My List". I was entertained and I already knew the ending. Very clever writing style that keeps a reader hooked.... good job Rand I especially like page 68."

5.0 out of 5 stars VERY cool book- half memoir, half "one on one" songwriting lesson with a grammy nominated pro!, December 20, 2008
By Britt Savage (nashville)

"Really cool idea for a book. Not only do the odd numbered chapters lead you through a virtual co-writing session with a grammy nominated/BMI winning pro, the even numbered chapters share real life experiences of a working songwriter who's had over 200 cuts, including songs for Tim McGraw, Heart, Cheap Trick, Indigo Girls and Toby Keith. (Toby's cut of Rand Bishop's "My List" spent 5 weeks at #1 and was the most played song of the year on country radio)

This is a great book for someone serious about learning both the craft and the business side of songwriting. "