

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN SLOWLY

A Life In and Out of Jazz

FRED HERSCH

“He discussed his life and feelings with candor, intelligence and humility in this exceptionally readable autobiography. VEDICT: It’s hard to leave this book without liking its author. This admirable memoir could be a sleeper.” -Library Journal (starred review)

“Jazz pianist and composer Hersch recalls his struggle to live in society as a gay man, as well as his battles with AIDS, in this honest and well-wrought memoir. Hersch’s narrative really grips during his agonizing recovery, near-death coma resulting from AIDS complications, an ordeal that lends depth and pathos to this candid memoir.” -Publishers Weekly

“Hersch’s music has never been about fluff or putting on airs, and the same can now be said of his autobiographical writing and self-examination. With ‘Good Things Happen Slowly’, Fred Hersch presents an honest and compelling portrait of the artist from seed stage to full bloom, a pull-no-punches examination and exploration of living life as a gay man in a less-than-tolerant era and climate, a clear-eyed presentation of an HIV-positive status and the illnesses that came with it, and the dawning of love. Above all, it’s a revealing look at a great man coming to terms with life and dissecting the need to belong”.

-Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz

“...a gripping personal history.” -Michael Ullman, The Arts Fuse

“Great jazz has to have the element of danger,” he contends. He has lived that motto to the fullest. And that same attitude propels this powerful autobiography. Again and again, Mr. Hersch shares details—about drugs or sex or the music life—that others might have held back. Yet that raw honesty and immediacy is probably why so many of us find his music so compelling. By the same token, that’s why this book earns a place as one of the great contemporary jazz memoirs.’ -Ted Gioia, The Wall Street Journal