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# Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts On Christian Spirituality



## Synopsis

"I never liked jazz music because jazz music doesn't resolve. I used to not like God because God didn't resolve. But that was before any of this happened." ?Donald MillerIn Donald Miller's early years, he was vaguely familiar with a distant God. But when he came to know Jesus Christ, he pursued the Christian life with great zeal. Within a few years he had a successful ministry that ultimately left him feeling empty, burned out, and, once again, far away from God. In this intimate, soul-searching account, Miller describes his remarkable journey back to a culturally relevant, infinitely loving God. For anyone wondering if the Christian faith is still relevant in a postmodern culture. For anyone thirsting for a genuine encounter with a God who is real. For anyone yearning for a renewed sense of passion in life. Blue Like Jazz is a fresh and original perspective on life, love, and redemption.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Miller (Prayer and the Art of Volkswagen Maintenance) is a young writer, speaker and campus ministry leader. An earnest evangelical who nearly lost his faith, he went on a spiritual journey, found some progressive politics and most importantly, discovered Jesus' relevance for everyday life. This book, in its own elliptical way, tells the tale of that journey. But the narrative is episodic rather than linear, Miller's style evocative rather than rational and his analysis personally revealing rather than profoundly insightful. As such, it offers a postmodern riff on the classic evangelical presentation of the Gospel, complete with a concluding call to commitment. Written as a series of

short essays on vaguely theological topics (faith, grace, belief, confession, church), and disguised theological topics (magic, romance, shifts, money), it is at times plodding or simplistic (how to go to church and not get angry? "pray... and go to the church God shows you"), and sometimes falls into merely self-indulgent musing. But more often Miller is enjoyably clever, and his story is telling and beautiful, even poignant. (The story of the reverse confession booth is worth the price of the book.) The title is meant to be evocative, and the subtitle-"Non-Religious" thoughts about "Christian Spirituality"-indicates Miller's distrust of the institutional church and his desire to appeal to those experimenting with other flavors of spirituality. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Donald Miller has helped more than 3,000 businesses clarify their marketing messages so their companies grow. He's the CEO of StoryBrand, the cohost of the Building a StoryBrand Podcast, and the author of several books, including the bestsellers *Blue Like Jazz* and *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Betsy, and their dogs, Lucy and June Carter. *—*

If your struggling with your faith walk, too much "rules and regulations" to figure out, read this book. It opens up a whole "nother" perspective on faith and BELIEVING and being comfortable with it all and so reminds me of just how Jesus Himself would have "said" it to all of us, where He here in skin and bones.

This book is amazing!! It was thought provoking, funny, emotional and raw. I got so much out of this. My wife isn't a big reader, but I talked about this book so much that she picked up a copy and started reading it also. She loved it! Couldn't recommend this book enough!

Absolutely love this book! It's one of those books you can read over and over and still learn new things. It is not too preachy, too churchy, or too judgemental. It was wonderfully insightful and eye opening. I purchased this book about 10 years ago and have referenced it for different life events more times than I can count. It is such a real and honest look into what Christianity has become and the ways Christians can unintentionally hurt those around them with judgments. It also makes you laugh and somehow feel convicted without being defensive. My favorite line is: "I never liked jazz music because jazz music doesn't resolve. But I was outside the Bagdad Theater in Portland one night when I saw a man playing the saxophone. I stood there for fifteen minutes, and he never opened his eyes. After that I liked jazz music. Sometimes you have to watch somebody love

something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way. I used to not like God because God didn't resolve. But that was before any of this happened. ÆfÂçÃ â ÑÃ Â•

I'm still not quite finished with this book, but I can truly appreciate Don's refreshing take on Christianity and Spirituality. Christianity is meant to be alive and this book illuminates a rather marginalized approach living it out.

His reluctance to religion is what makes this book a page turner. I love his exploration into his own faith and the conclusions he comes to are very similar to my own ideology. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

"It comforts me to think that if we are created beings, the thing that created us would have to be greater than us , so much greater, in fact that we would not be able to understand it. It would have to be greater than the facts of our reality, and so it would seem to us, looking out from within our reality, that it would contradict reason. But reason itself would suggest it would have to be greater than our reality, or it would not be reasonable." --"Blue Like Jazz" page 201. I truly liked the way Donald Miller phrased things in his book. I did not always agree with him (there is not one I agree with 100% of the time) but he always made me think and ponder. Bravo!"Blue Like Jazz" reminded me of "The Velvet Elvis" which is also an interesting book along similar lines. Thanks for reading my review.

This book opened my eyes to how Christians are viewed by other-than-Christian people groups. It gave me insight to their thought processes in relation to how they have been treated by us. It further showed how little in the world is black and white but mostly gray. It caused me to look closer at Jesus and how He related to all people where they were emotionally, spiritually, physically. He loved them the way they were (just as He loved me) and caused change through relationship with Him instead of through guilt (that the Christian organization, GENERALLY speaking, has come to force on them). I am thankful that there are Churches in our country that are getting back to looking at and behaving how Jesus was, dropping the picket signs, loving everybody, and letting the Holy Spirit bring about changes.

This book is so real. It tells a true story of a young man whom God has chosen to let us into his heart of hearts as the Lord grows him into learning what being loved and giving love is all about. I

really enjoyed the conversational manner in which this book was written. I chose 5 stars and will recommend this book to my family and friends.

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