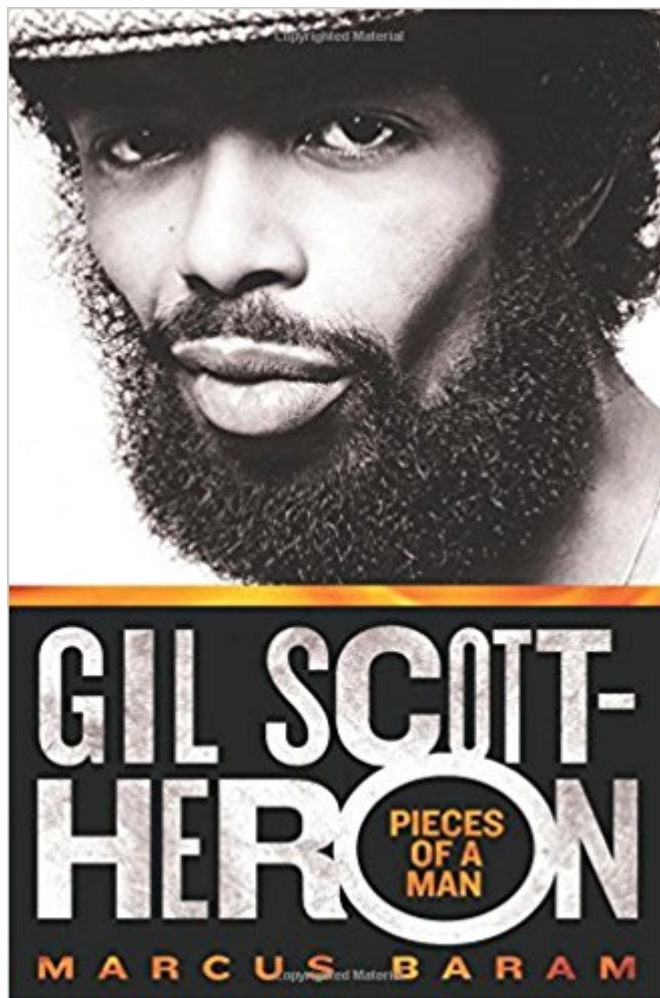


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Gil Scott-Heron: Pieces Of A Man



Synopsis

Best known for his 1970 polemic "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," Gil Scott-Heron was a musical icon who defied characterization. He tantalized audiences with his charismatic stage presence, and his biting, observant lyrics in such singles as "The Bottle" and "Johannesburg" provide a time capsule for a decade marked by turbulence, uncertainty, and racism. While he was exalted by his devoted fans as the "black Bob Dylan" (a term he hated) and widely sampled by the likes of Kanye West, Prince, Common, and Elvis Costello, he never really achieved mainstream success. Yet he maintained a cult following throughout his life, even as he grappled with the personal demons that fueled so many of his lyrics. Scott-Heron performed and occasionally recorded well into his later years, until eventually succumbing to his life-long struggle with addiction. He passed away in 2011, the end to what had become a hermit-like existence. In this biography, Marcus Baram--an acquaintance of Gil Scott-Heron's--will trace the volatile journey of a troubled musical genius. Baram will chart Scott-Heron's musical odyssey, from Chicago to Tennessee to New York: a drug addict's twisted path to redemption and enduring fame. In *Gil Scott-Heron: Pieces of a Man*, Marcus Baram puts the complicated icon into full focus.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Controversial and enigmatic, the tragic trajectory of Scott-Heron's life and career is expertly examined in this testament to one of the last great radical artists.”

“Baram's exacting, intimate, and sensitive portrait preserves and honors

Scott-Herron's unique genius and essential legacy. [Booklist](#) "A poignant portrait... of the artist as a black man struggling to make sense of his culture from the 1960s to his death | Baram's appreciative biography offers a glimpse into the complex feelings and thoughts of this Renaissance man we lost much too soon." [Publishers Weekly](#) "An addict and a recluse; a genius and a poet; a defacto founder of hip-hop who died in poverty, afraid to open his front door. Baram...traces Gil Scott-Heron's complicated path in the first full-on biographical work devoted to a career as turbulent as it was brilliant." [NOLA.com, The Times-Picayune](#)

MARCUS BARAM is Managing Editor at International Business Times and a former news editor at the New York Observer, The Wall Street Journal, and Huffington Post. He has also worked at the New York Daily News and ABC News, and has written for The New York Times, The New Yorker, New York magazine, Vibe, The Village Voice, and the New York Post. Gil-Scott Heron: Pieces of a Man is his first book. A life-long fan, Baram knew Gil Scott-Heron and they were discussing collaborating on a memoir before he died.

I'm a long-time Gil Scott-Heron (GSH) fan. Since his passing there have been a few books that tell his story. Gil's memoir, THE LAST HOLIDAY, is interesting but he left lots of holes in his story. Leslie Goffe's book, GSH: A FATHER AND HIS SON, is a great read that tells an interesting father/son story. Marcus Baram's book, PIECES OF A MAN, is the best yet and it's a must-read for any GSH fan. The research is deep, the writing is engaging, and the stories are priceless. Baram shares the most information I've read about Gil's lost years in the 80s and 90s. While it's emotional to read, I enjoyed hearing from Gil's friends and band members discussing his drug addiction issues. Baram also gives us more information in the rift that developed between Gil and his music co-conspirator, Brian Jackson. I will cherish this book for years to come. Thanks Marcus for caring so much to write such a thoughtful biography of a man's whose music has meant so much to me.

This book helped me understand Gil Scott-Heron. Its not a pretty picture. The book starts with a long and sometimes slow discussion of his childhood. While reading it, I wondered if the book would be worth the time. Very quickly this well written story gained momentum and by the mid-point, I could barely put it down. Several decades ago, when I was in High School, I first heard Gil Scott-Heron's In The Bottle, read and listened to some of his other works, and learned of his opposition to using hard drugs. I was amazed and impressed by his radical clarity. In 2010, "The

New Yorker" published an excellent piece examining Gil Scott-Heron's (then current) life and dependence on crack cocaine. It was probably the first thing I'd heard about Gil Scott-Heron in 20 years or more. Less than a year later, he was dead. This book helped me understand the man, his greatness and his vanities.

I must admit that I'm extremely biased when it comes to Gil Scott-Heron. He was such a talent, a musical genius, an intellectual par excellence and an artist committed to the improvement of lives of people. I think this book does a great job of capturing the essence of Gil. From his childhood to his musical journey, the brilliance of his unscripted performances, the drug use, the decline in health, it's all here. And it reads like a runaway train, one of those books you can't put down, because you are so eager to see what's next for Gil. If you aren't familiar with Gil Scott-Heron, this book serves as a great introduction. If you are a fan, like myself, this is a tremendous trip down memory lane.

A Great Piece of history on my favorite Author, Poet and Musician of all time Mr. Gil Scott-Heron. I had the pleasure of meeting him many years ago in NY and I was blown away by his knowledge. The man was deep and a true revolutionary in a day when all of what he sung about and wrote about is still true to this day. Rest in Peace Mr. Heron you are loved and missed.

An exceptional well written book, even though it has such a tragic ending, it was still very uplifting and covered all there was to know of such a great artist. Gone all too soon!!!!

A crisp, compelling portrait of an under-recognized poetic genius and cultural icon. Funny, stirring and tragic, it is hard to stop reading once you begin. And the writing is great -- lean and lyrical. One of my favorite lines: "What was striking was Gil's blend of radicalism with humor: a pie in the face followed by a left hook to the jaw." Highly, highly recommend this book.

I took my time reading this book. I guess I just wanted to take it all in piece by piece. Gil Scott-Heron will always be a part of my thoughts. I never really understood his addictive behavior, but his life as all of us is our own. This book gave me insight of a man I admired musically and spiritually. His presence will always be present in my creative endeavours.

Finally a definitive written document of unique socially conscious 1970s music artist

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