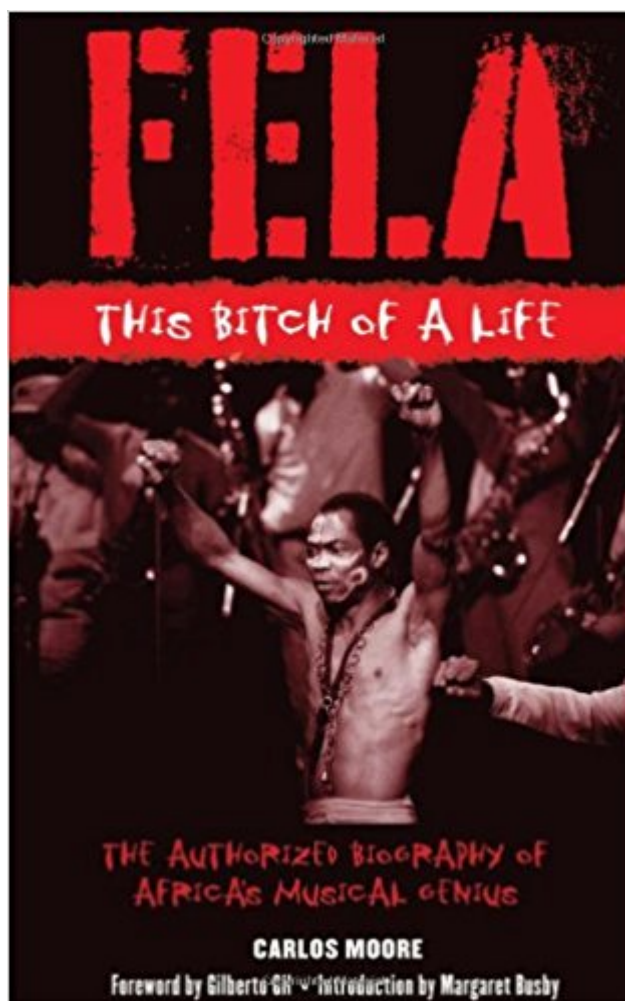


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# Fela: This Bitch Of A Life



## Synopsis

African superstar, composer, singer, and musician, as well as mystic and political activist, Nigerian Fela Kuti, born in 1938, was controversy personified. He was swept to international celebrity on a wave of scandal and flamboyance, and when he died of AIDS in 1997, more than a million people attended his funeral. But what was he really like, this man who could as easily arouse violent hostility as he could unswerving loyalty?Â Carlos Moore's unique biography, based on hours of conversation and told in Fela's first-person vernacular, reveals the icon's complex personality and tumultuous existence. Moore includes interviews with fifteen of his queens (wives); photos; and an updated discography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Fela was an incredible pioneer. His rhythms and influence have been absorbed into so much of the music around today, and the musical world owes him a debt of gratitude.” • Stevie Wonder“His music was exotic, royal, powerful, and captured the spirit of Mother Africa. He was respected and loved not only for his music but for his intellect and his dedication to African traditions. Fela was one of the most courageous individuals I have ever met.” • Randy Weston“An amazing musical genius with a boisterous sense of humor, Fela was an immovable rock in his fight against corruption. Surviving several immoral military regimes, it is a miracle that he died from natural causes rather than their torture.” • Hugh Masekela“Fela’s biography is important to us all now because it sounds like he is speaking to

us from the world beyond. It goes with our aphorism which says that 'Fela Lives.' He lives in the minds and hearts of us all who knew and loved him and to whom he imparted so much knowledge and joy. I personally look forward to reading this book once again, as it provides so much understanding into the mind of such a GREAT MAN. • Femi Kuti;The most charismatic musician to have emerged from Africa in the past 40 years. •

•Telegraph;Africa's most important musical export. • Africa Music;[H]e has influenced music in Africa more than anyone else."

•Guardian;[T]he most influential and significant musician ever to emerge from Africa." •Time Out

Carlos Moore is a political scientist and an ethnologist. He is an honorary research fellow at the School for Graduate Studies and Research of the University of the West Indies "Kingston and the author of *Pichón: Race and Revolution in Castro's Cuba*. Gilberto Gil is a composer, a bandleader, a singer, and a guitarist and has served as the Brazilian minister of culture since 2003. Margaret Busby is a writer, a critic, a broadcaster, and the editor of *Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Words and Writing by Women of African Descent*.

This book had a very big impact on me. I have been listening to Fela's music for a long time, and after reading the book I understand the meaning of the lyrics much better. He went through so much for defending the rights of the Nigerian people and Africans in general, and for fighting the corrupt regimes. I really admire him. I also learned a lot about the Nigerian culture which was very interesting to me.

A lot of time was spent interviewing his wives. Neither his son, Femi, nor any of his band members were interviewed. I hoped to get more of an insight into his thought process during the period he composed some of his most beautiful musical arrangements.

I learned a lot.

Must read for all Fela fans

This is a great biography of a musician and a man who fought so hard for the liberation of Nigerian people. Without this book, we would not have had the play or up-coming movie.

The book, a very quick read, was interesting coming from first person interviews. Unfortunately, more insight into the why of Fela's motives were not presented

Awesome read! Taught me a lot about the life of fela and Afrobeat music and jazz

Very detailed biography of the greatest African musician of all time!

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